



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Head: Libyan Pilgrims' Request 'Legitimate'

NC0404103395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 4
Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismaat 'Abd-al-Majid has praised Saudi Arabia for agreeing to receive Libyan pilgrims, irrespective of the means of transport that take them there.

Speaking today before leaving for London, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that the Libyan demand to organize air flights to carry Libyan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia is a legitimate demand to fulfill a religious obligation. He added: I trust the Security Council will not object to such flights.

He pointed out that in London he will deliver lectures at the invitation of international British institutions, meet with British officials, and attend a ceremony organized by the Arab ambassadors to mark the Arab League's 50th anniversary. He noted that from London he will go to France to deliver lectures at the invitation of the Arab Institute in Paris and meet the Arab community there.

On Turkey's operation in northern Iraq, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: We have expressed our extreme concern over these events and called on the Turkish Government to withdraw its troops, end the interference, and respect Iraq's territorial integrity.

Palestinian Affairs

Official Condemns Hamas for Gaza Bomb Blast

AU0304160995 Paris AFP in English 1525 GMT
3 Apr 95

[All names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, April 3 (AFP)—The Palestinian authorities' representative in France on Monday [3 April] condemned Hamas militants who died in a blast in a bomb factory in Gaza, but said there was no way of stopping them carrying out such activities.

Layla Shahid added however that Israel had to take some responsibility, accusing it of having supported Hamas against the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and of having supplied arms to the region.

She said the blast, which killed six people including a Hamas leader on Sunday, "cost the lives of children, and showed the Palestinian population of Gaza how much the presence of this sort of madman... endangers them."

Stressing that they could not be controlled, she said civilian support was essential if such incidents were to be eradicated. "The most important thing is to have the collaboration of the civilian population," she said.

She added that stopping attacks was impossible. "There is no way to prevent attacks either in Israel or the Palestinian territories," she said. "There is no miracle solution to prevent the attacks."

But accusing Israel she added: "We are paying the price today of a certain degree of irresponsibility on the part of the Israeli authorities," she said, accusing them of having authorized "the sale of so many arms on the eve of our arrival in Gaza."

"It is difficult to make the Palestinian authority responsible for an area of land which it has controlled for nine months, while the Israeli authorities have been pursuing a policy of supporting Hamas against the PLO for years."

In Gaza City on Monday more than 3,000 Hamas militants marched through the streets shouting revenge against Israel over the death of Kamal Kahil, the head of the Gaza branch of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam armed wing, and three other militants in the blast Sunday.

PA's 'Abd-al-Rahim Interviewed on Gaza Explosion

JN0304154295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0530 GMT 3 Mar 95

[Telephone interview with PA Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, in Gaza, by Fathi al-Barqawi, in the studio from the "A New Day" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Brother al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the National Authority [NA; Palestinian Authority, PA], good morning.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Good morning to you.

[Al-Barqawi] How can one view yesterday's explosion in the al-Shaykh Radwan quarter in Gaza in light of the explosives, gases, and documents which were seized?

['Abd-al-Rahim] The incident is really distressing. Until 1515 yesterday, reports reaching the presidency and his excellency the president, who was meeting Palestinian businessmen, were saying that what took place was caused by a butane gas cylinder explosion. However, we, and even the president, said it was possible that a butane gas cylinder explosion would cause so many casualties?

[Al-Barqawi] Yes, the casualty toll is high.

['Abd-al-Rahim] We later received the reports of the brothers in the police department. The brothers had been busy with the bodies and with what is more dangerous—dealing with the substances there such as oxygen, hydroxide, and nitrogen gases...

[Al-Barqawi, interrupting] It is said that many people fainted.

['Abd-al-Rahim] At least 30 persons fainted and received treatment. Among them was a Palestinian captain. We rushed him to hospital. The building in which the

explosion took place in al-Shaykh Radwan area was being used as a factory for producing time bombs...

[Al-Barqawi, interrupting] In a populated area?

['Abd-al-Rahim] We regret to say that there is no respect for the inviolability of citizens and no concern for their safety. Of course, they established this factory in a populated area to avoid suspicion. Had they established it in a garden or orchard, it would have been discovered. This shows a complete disregard for people's lives. A tragedy could have occurred affecting the entire al-Shaykh Radwan quarter had it not been for the sacrificial spirit of the police force, which quickly took action in the upper floors where no explosions took place. We also should not forget the Civil Defense men who hastened to remove these deadly substances which consisted of 30 kg of hydroxide liquid, 30 kg of white powder used for preparing explosives, six rockets and explosive charges ready for use, a 10-kg (Kex) missile, and two suitcases of explosives which were also defused and removed.

[Al-Barqawi] Brother Abu-al-'Abid [al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim], from the documents that were found, can one say there is a plan to carry out operations?

['Abd-al-Rahim] This is very clear from the documents we found. The documents contained an admission that they killed citizens in the Gaza Strip, that they will escalate their activities in and outside the Strip. We do not know what they mean by outside.

[Al-Barqawi] In spite of all this, Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman for the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement in Amman, said that his movement suspects that the PA and Israel are responsible for the explosion?

['Abd-al-Rahim] I have not seen better liars than these people. The citizens are here, and the entire world sees what takes place. But, they want to distance themselves from the charges because this is a crime against the citizens. How can they refute the charges? This person speaks from Amman. He knows nothing about what is taking place. Let him come and see the situation in al-Shaykh Radwan quarter.

[Al-Barqawi] Brother al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, four weeks from now, we will celebrate the first anniversary of the PA's establishment in the liberated Palestinian territories. Do you believe that there was a plan to carry out operations to demoralize the people?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Let me tell you something. A few days ago, we found an explosive charge targeting one of the Palestinian officials. Hamas planted this explosive in Gaza. The explosive charge was found at Bene Darom.

[Al-Barqawi] Is this the first time you reveal this?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Yes. The most important thing that we discovered from what we had confiscated is that they received this material from Ashdod Port. The inscription (Tsil), I think it means the Israeli Defense Forces, is printed on some of this material.

[Al-Barqawi] Then, this substantiates our doubts not only about Hamas...

['Abd-al-Rahim, interrupting] Brother Fathi, we regret to say that our doubts are daily getting more and more substantiated. This material comes from Ashdod. This is very strange. The material the PA receives is meticulously searched at Ashdod Port. How did they receive such material from Ashdod Port? This is the same thing that took place during the Bet Lid operation. How did they move undetected from al-Duhniyah to Bet Lid?

[Al-Barqawi] Exactly. This reminds us of the Bet Lid operation. Brother 'Abd-al-Rahim, good morning and thank you.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Good morning. One is supposed to be calm in the morning, but how can one remain so when their statements show how impudently they lie. The world and the people know better.

[Al-Barqawi] This is evident.

['Abd-al-Rahim] I can understand if they say that they have committed a mistake and admit what has taken place. This man, who was killed in the explosion...

[Al-Barqawi, interrupting] Kamal Kahil?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Yes, Kamal Kahil. He was a murderer who used to kill people in cold blood with his bare hands. He was crazy. People from outside imagine that there are angels here. Let them come and see. To cover up for such a crime in this deceptive manner makes us wonder: What Islam do they speak about? This has nothing to do with Islam.

[Al-Barqawi] I am confident that our people are very well aware of this issue. Thank you, once again.

Hamas Reacts to Explosion in Gaza, PA Reports

Threatens Israel With 'Revenge'

TA0304180195 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television
Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Anat Saragusti video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has threatened a retaliatory attack against Israel because it blames Israel for yesterday's explosion in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. The call for revenge was also heard from thousands of Hamas activists who participated in a symbolic funeral for the explosion's fatalities. There is also serious tension and an exchange of blame between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority [PA]. 'Anat Saragusti reports from Gaza on the day after the explosion:

[Begin recording] [Saragusti] Hamas continues to blame Israel for yesterday's explosion in Gaza, in which Kamal Kuhayl, an 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam leader was killed with

three other activists. In a leaflet distributed in the Gaza Strip, Hamas also notes cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian Police.

[Unidentified Palestinian, in English] We do not believe that this was a factory or place for manufacturing explosives.

[Saragusti] The rising tension between the PA and Hamas was obvious at this afternoon's symbolic funeral in Gaza for the fatalities in the explosion. Despite an agreement reached last night between Hamas and the Palestinian Police on the funerals today, the Gaza authorities buried the dead secretly this morning. Hamas could therefore only hold a symbolic funeral, in which they carried empty wooden stretchers. The funeral turned into a mass show of strength with the participation of thousands, who left Gaza's Falastin Square for the cemetery in the eastern part of the strip. Many in the Palestinian street shouted for retaliation against Israel soon. The Palestinian Police preferred to put the blame on the dead themselves. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ridicules Authority Account of Blast

JN0304195195 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT
3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 3 Apr (SANA)—Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman for the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement, has warned against a series of operations to assassinate the leaders and cadres of the Palestinian resistance. He said the explosion which occurred in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza targeted a number of activists from the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam battalion, led by martyr Kamal Kuhayl.

In a statement to the QUDS PRESS news agency over the telephone, Ghawshah added that martyr Kuhayl was pursued by the occupation authorities and the intelligence organs of the limited self-rule authority. When they found Kuhayl, they planted a bomb for him, he said.

Ghawshah accused the self-rule authority of taking part in the assassination of Kuhayl. He said the operation was carried out in a residential area in order to kill or wound the largest possible number of people in an attempt to instigate the Palestinian masses against the Hamas Movement.

He asserted that the removal of the bombs from the suitcases, which was reconstructed precisely, affirms that the operation was premeditated. He said: Everyone saw on television how the so-called bomb disposal expert stepped on the suspect suitcases after which he claimed he was detonating the bombs. This expert later carried the bombs and walked through crowds of policemen. This is ridiculous and illogical, because had he carried real bombs, no one would have walked alongside this expert, who would not have carried these bombs for fear of their (?explosion), Ghawshah added.

He also pointed to the threats made by Yasir 'Arafat through Israeli newspapers that he will crush those whom he called extremists if they do not listen to him. Ghawshah warned that if the (?series) of massacres is not stopped and if 'Arafat's authorities do not know their limits, fire will spread throughout the Palestinian arena, which is what Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin seeks.

Memorandum Blames 'Arafat, Israel

JN0304201595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab
Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, calling for a three-day mourning period in the al-Shaykh Radwan quarter and for national mourning throughout Palestine to honor the heroic martyrs, has issued a comprehensive memorandum on the ugly massacre which was committed by the enemy cliques in collusion with the 'Arafatist ruling authority in the al-Shaykh Radwan district in Gaza. The memorandum says that the movement holds 'Arafat's authority and the Shin Bet cliques fully responsible for the explosion and its results and calls for trying the security commanders of the 'Arafatist authority who are involved in this massacre. It also warns 'Arafat's authority and its agents against harming the mujahidin of our people.

In a comprehensive memorandum on the ugly massacre, committed by the Zionist enemy cliques in collusion with the 'Arafatist self-rule authority in the al-Shaykh Radwan quarter in Gaza, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said that all the miserable and desperate attempts by the self-rule authority to mislead our people and cover up its ugly conspiracy in the al-Shaykh Radwan massacre prove that the authority was involved in the treacherous crime, whose timing and goal were set with great accuracy and extreme wickedness. The crime will serve the self-rule authority, which is living in a state of confusion and isolation as a result of the failure of the weak Oslo-Cairo agreements. The crime could also give that authority justification for oppressing and disarming the mujahidin and distorting their honorable jihad and heroic operations. It will also serve terrorist Rabin through the assassination of some of those who are wanted by the occupation cliques, particularly martyr Kamal Kuhayl, who is at the top of a list of wanted people in Gaza by the occupation authority.

Enemy newspapers this morning highlighted the security authorities' success in assassinating Kamal Kuhayl, one of the wanted important leaders. The Zionist newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT writes on its front page under the headline: "Israel Liquidates No. One Killer in Gaza." The comprehensive memorandum on the ugly massacre in the al-Shaykh Radwan quarter adds: The authority's weak and contradictory stories on the ugly massacre clearly reveal the extent of falsehood and allegations. This was clear in the following: Kamal Kuhayl had been wanted by the enemy authorities for over four years. He was also wanted by the security organs of 'Arafat's authority. Various sources in

the 'Arafatist authority alleged that the mujahidin had five booby-trapped briefcases and then said they had only three. Meanwhile, the 'Arafatist authority related various contradictory stories on the quantity of the seized weapons.

The fabricated scenario on the dismantling of one of the alleged briefcases was so silly that nobody believed it. The weak 'Arafatist self-rule authority tried to prevent the symbols of the Islamic Resistance Movement from making statements to the press to acquaint our people and the media organs with the premeditated crime.

Al-Zahhar Rejects PA Statements

NC0404072695 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud al-Zahhar, the official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, told MBC this evening that the suitcase of explosives displayed by the Palestinian police had been planted [at the site of the explosion] after the explosion took place. He accused the Palestinian Authority [PA] of giving in to U.S. and Israeli pressure. He added:

[Begin recording] [al-Zahhar] Actually the proof materialized by the PA itself today. Two experts working in the PA's Civil Defense Agency held a news conference today. Contrary to what Police Commander Ghazi al-Jabali claimed yesterday, they explained that there had been no explosives, bomb factory, or attempt to prepare bombs at the site. They pointed out that only personal weapons and ordinary material that could be obtained anywhere had been found at the site. They were of the opinion that a time bomb had been planted outside the building. This is the reply of the PA to the PA.

[Antoine 'Awn] But pictures were displayed and the Palestinian Police and Public Security Commander read a statement providing a detailed description of explosives. What is your reply?

[Al-Zahhar] Everyone is asking how could a building collapse while a suitcase of explosives is still hanging down for people and the photographer to see from outside the building? And how could some devices explode and while others did not? As I said earlier, the PA's Civil Defense categorically denied that these devices had been found at the site. Perhaps they were brought in and displayed before the television cameras in the manner you have seen.

[Awn] What interest does the PA and the Palestinian police have in pointing an accusing finger at Hamas?

[Al-Zahhar] I believe it is in response to the pressure of Israel and the United States, which put the PA in a tight spot: Either to strike at Hamas or there will be no progress in the so-called peace process and payments by the donors.

[Awn] You are accusing the PA and the PA is accusing Hamas. Who do you want the Palestinians citizens to believe?

[Al-Zahhar] If the PA is refuting its own words, then who should the average Palestinian believe? As I told you, the Palestinian police had released information only to be denied by the PA's Civil Defense. Thus, it is obvious who is telling the truth in this case. [end recording]

Hamas' Ghawshah Denies Reported Meeting With Likud

JN0404102995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 4 Apr 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by 'Umar Kallab]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to AL-ASWAQ, Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, [Islamic Resistance Movement], has stressed that Hamas was serious about establishing a political party in the occupied territories before the self-rule authority assumed powers in Gaza and Jericho.

Eng. Ghawshah added: The movement has not made a decision in this regard in light of developments in the region. This has prompted the movement to wait, particularly following the National Authority's undemocratic practice of appointing municipal committees in the Palestinian cities, and of not giving democracy a chance. This is despite the fact that Hamas did intend to participate in the municipal elections.

Ghawshah said: Reports about Hamas' participation in the elections which will take place in the self-rule areas are baseless and lack political balance. The movement rejects the Oslo agreement as a whole. It will never discuss any of its clauses.

Regarding reports of a meeting between representatives of the movement and the Likud Party, Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah said Hamas rejects in principle any dialogue between the Hamas Movement and the Zionist occupation.

He said: This news report serves to promote Rabin's popularity in the Israeli street after the situation has begun to favor the Likud. He stressed that the movement's stand toward the Labor and Likud is firm and clear, and that they are two ugly faces of the Zionist occupation.

Prisoner Accused of 'Collaborating' Shot Dead

NC0204120495 Paris AFP in English 1121 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, April 2 (AFP)—Three Palestinian policemen are being questioned after the bullet-riddled body of a prisoner accused of collaborating with Israel was found dumped in a refugee camp, officials said Sunday [2 April].

Muhammad Ahmad al-Jundi, 33, had been held in Gaza's central prison for several months accused of helping the Israeli army to kill six militants from PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah movement a year ago before the launch of self-rule.

His body was discovered in Jabaliya camp in the Gaza Strip late Saturday, Palestinian prosecutor Khalid al-Qidrah said. It is not known who took him out of prison or killed him.

"We immediately launched an inquiry to find those responsible," al-Qidrah told AFP.

"We will act with the greatest severity against all those who have broken the law. We want to know who killed this man."

Three policemen were being questioned, al-Qidrah said.

Al-Jundi was a member of a group of 12 Palestinians accused of having helped "special units" of the Israeli army to kill the six Fatah Hawks in the Jabaliya camp.

Gaza sources said al-Jundi was murdered at the same spot where the hawks met their deaths, and the shooting took place in front of relatives of the victims.

Al-Qidrah said charges are to be brought against the suspected collaborators in the next few days. They were to be tried before the recently created state security court.

Israel Said 'Exaggerating' Islamic Groups' Strength

TA0204165995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
2 Apr 95 p A1

[Report by 'Amira Hess in Gaza Strip]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview to HA'ARETZ, General Nasr Yusuf, the commander of the Palestinian security forces, said that Israeli security officials and the Israeli media were greatly exaggerating the military strength of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip. Yusuf said that the Israelis had also exaggerated with regard to the quantity of unregistered weapons and explosives possessed by private individuals and by the military arms of the Islamic organizations.

"The resources of a military movement and its operational capabilities have a crucial role in determining the nature of the armed groups and their activities," General Yusuf asserted. The Palestinian commander explained that "the military groups in the Gaza Strip do not have the necessary resources or ammunition to realize the kind of capabilities attributed to them. The small size of their squads prove that they do not have a lot of weapons. A Kalashnikov costs 9000 Jordanian dinars (about \$13,000), which automatically limits the amount of rifles they can purchase."

Yusuf also said that the explosive charges in the Gaza Strip were not as sophisticated as those used in terrorist attacks inside Israel. The general estimated that there were approximately 1,000 rifles and handguns in the possession of residents of the Gaza Strip, out of which

400 had already been registered and licensed. The process of locating, registering, or confiscating the remaining weapons was continuing, at a rate which was "suited to political and security circumstances."

Yusuf alleged that certain elements who were "interested in exacerbating tensions" had deliberately inflated the reports on the discovery of the truck in Tel Sheva'. Yusuf asserted that the Palestinian police would demand to interview the two residents of al-Shaja'iyah, detained in connection with the affair, in order to reveal the truth.

Quray' Welcomes U.S. Economic Moves, Gore Visit

JN3103160295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1230 GMT 31 Mar 95

[Interview with Dr. Ahmad Quray', minister of trade and economy, by Jamal Mi'ari; place and date not given; from the "Today's Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Mi'ari] Mr. Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray']: It has been recently noted that there is an active [U.S.] political move toward the Palestinian side. U.S. Vice President Al Gore recently visited the region, and President 'Arafat met with the U.S. consul general, and you met with the the U.S. consul general yesterday. What are the results of this U.S. activity?

[Quray'] No doubt, the entire peace process is now entering a serious crossroads—either it continues and achieves the results we seek or time will run out for the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks as part of a comprehensive and just settlement.

I believe the impasse facing the peace process as a whole is prompting the international parties and the U.S. and Russian cosponsors to make an active move in order to explore the horizons and learn how to promote and preserve this process, so it will achieve the sought objectives.

The U.S. vice president was in this region a week ago. He visited the Palestinian Authority [PA] areas. I believe this was an important political gesture. His visit definitely had political significance and substance, which take pride in.

And, the Russian foreign minister is also in the region. He visited Damascus, Cairo, and Jordan. I believe he will arrive here today, and will meet with President Yasir 'Arafat. The Russian move also falls within this framework. As you know, the British prime minister was recently here. He visited Gaza and he was accorded official reception ceremonies. This is also politically significant.

I believe this phase is crucial and serious, whether on the political level pertaining to the negotiating process and to achieving the sought objectives or on the security level, noting that the Palestinians are now the party that is harmed most. This also requires genuine consideration by

both the Palestinian and Israeli sides, knowing that the latter side exaggerates the issues pertaining to security.

Moreover, the economic situation is now extremely serious, posing a large threat in terms of unemployment, which is increasing daily, the actual deterioration in the general Palestinian economic situation, or even the PA's ability to fulfill its obligations and pay the expenses of the Palestinian administration. All these issues require genuine and serious consideration of this situation.

[Mi'ari] Abu-'Ala': On the economic level, it is known that the U.S. political move was accompanied by an economic move. Gore promised to give facilities and cancel the customs duties on Palestinian goods exported to Washington. You met with the U.S. consul yesterday. How far have you gone in this direction?

[Quray'] In fact, we sense a U.S. interest in addressing and supporting the Palestinian economic situation. As is known, the United States is playing a pioneering role along with the donor states. This U.S. position is appreciated.

On another level, the United States is trying to promote trade between Palestine and the United States. The United States recently decided to give preferential treatment to Palestinian goods. It also supports establishing Palestinian industrial zones, which, I believe, will affect the Palestinian economy.

All these U.S. measures are part of addressing and consolidating the deteriorating economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

VOP Commentary Criticizes Iran, Jordan

JN0304133595 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0625 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Station commentary by Yusuf al-Qazzaz]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good Morning: We must always keep in mind that we are waging a battle of complicated negotiations with the Israelis, our partners in the peace process, to wrest our rights to our territories here. This is so our Palestinian people can have their right to self-determination and to an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. We would like to make it very clear that we will not allow the peace process to be threatened no matter where these threats come from. Moreover, we will not allow anyone to open fire on any target whatsoever without justification, hide explosives, or simply plant death amid our citizens's houses, resulting in something like what happened in Gaza yesterday.

From the premise of our belief in peace and our National Authority's readiness to deter whoever tries to sabotage the peace process in areas under the National Authority's control, we say: No one will be allowed to attack President Yasir 'Arafat as the so-called Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas spokesman in Amman, did. Our Palestinian people consider Yasir 'Arafat their national symbol. This

is one of their rights. Our Palestinian people will not forgive those suspects like Ibrahim Ghawshah for attacking the national symbol of Palestine in statements like the ones he made in Amman.

If the Iranian regime provides Ghawshah and the like with money, means of sabotage, weapons, and explosives to destroy our Palestinian arenas and sow death inside them, then we would like to question what the sisterly Jordanian Government means by allowing Ibrahim Ghawshah and other henchmen of the Iranian regime to attack President Yasir 'Arafat and the National Authority there in Arab Amman.

Everyone recalls that President Yasir 'Arafat stopped a Palestinian publication when it attacked Jordanian monarch King Husayn a few weeks ago. Hence, our Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestinian National Authority, hope that the Jordanian monarch and the sisterly Jordanian Government will stop Ibrahim Ghawshah's attacks and lies against all Palestinian national emblems.

Ghawshah claims he supports struggle. His concept of struggle is to praise Iran, promote its ill-winds, sabotage the peace process, spread tools of death in our poor Palestinian areas in the Gaza Strip, encourage killings everywhere, and disseminate rumors that serve the objectives of those harmed by the peace process, particularly the Israeli right-wing parties.

If our Jordanian brothers, who are the closest to Palestine and to the heart of Palestine do not know the nature of the relationship between some of the Jihad protagonists like Ghawshah and the Israeli right-wing parties and other parties within the Israeli army, then our Jordanian brothers should reassess their calculations and their stand on those who are like Ghawshah who, unfortunately, resides in Amman.

It has been proven so far that Ibrahim Ghawshah and those like him and the Israeli extremists agree on one thing: the toppling of the peace process. This is not a hypothetical issue. There are indications that coordination actually takes place between the two sides. Everything has a price. The Israeli extremists and the extremists who are backed by Iran and by quarters outside the Palestinian arena exploit this.

We would like to say that our Palestinian people will not accept any attack on Yasir 'Arafat, their national emblem, be it from those who ride on the bandwagon of the Iranian ill-winds like Ibrahim Ghawshah or from any other side. Our Palestinian people will also not accept any sabotaging of the peace process by Sharon or by those who claim that they wage Jihad, whether they reside in Amman or Tehran. There is no place for injustice or for oneupmanship in our Palestinian life. We can do without further tribulations as the Palestinian people are heavily burdened with painful and bloody events.

Let all those who claim to be deaf understand that peace on this homeland is our last resort, but not peace at any price;

a peace whose equation is quite clear: A Palestinian state with Jerusalem as capital. Let those who promenade in the Iranian gardens, such as Ghawshah and the like, understand that their bankruptcy has become evident and exposed. Iran, their patron, did not offer anything to the Arabs or to the Muslims either in war or in peace, and it will not offer anything. Its role of saboteur against the Arabs and Muslims is very obvious and well known and is embodied in what took place in Iraq and the stealing of the United Arab Emirates islands. This being the case, what can we expect from its lackeys who have suspicious links with the Israeli right wing?

Two New Parties To Participate in PA Elections

TA3103172295 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in
Hebrew 30 Mar 95 p 9

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two new Palestinian political parties, which plan to participate in the Palestinian Authority [PA] elections, were set up in the territories yesterday: "The Palestinian Socialist Ba'th Party, which will be based in Nabulus, and the Palestinian Unionist Grouping were set up in Jerusalem.

"We support peace, and in that we are different from the Syrian Ba'th," Jamal Bustami, secretary general of the Palestinian Ba'th party, said yesterday. The party was set up with the blessing of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Da'ud Abu-Ghazalah, one of the leaders of the Palestinian Unionist Grouping, explained yesterday that it was set up "to meet the needs of the silent majority in the territories. We support negotiations and the agreements reached, but we demand that a tougher policy be adopted in the talks with Israel."

Algeria

FIS Rejects Regime's Claims of Recent Victories

LD0204230895 Tehran IRNA in English 2108 GMT
2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, April 3, IRNA—Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) on Sunday [2 April] flatly rejected claims by the military regime of recent victories against Islamic forces fighting to create an Islamic state in Algeria.

"The biased and false propaganda and imaginary victories and false statements which are widely circulating in the media of the military regime in Algeria, show the condition of weakness and desperation which they (the regime) have reached," said a FIS statement faxed to IRNA from Germany.

The statement, issued in the name of 'FIS Executive Committee Abroad', also denied issuing two statements attributed to it, the last one on March 27.

It did not reveal the contents of the two false statements, but underlined that, "the two sheikhs, Abbas Madani and Ali Belhaj, continue to represent the majority of the Algerian people and are working for their interests."

FIS condemned "all terrorist acts aimed against the material and spiritual interests of the Muslim people of Algeria, and against women who are suffering imprisonment and murder."

The Arabic statement noted that the National Charter represents a "real initiative to find a just and peaceful solution to save Algeria from further destruction and torture."

It appealed to the Algerian people for brotherhood and solidarity in order to "rob the opportunity from those wanting Algerians to fight against each other."

The military regime claimed early this week that its forces killed 800 Islamists in an ambush after a weeklong battle in the rugged Ain Defla region, southwest of Algiers.

Three years ago, the Western-backed junta in Algeria cancelled elections which FIS was poised to win, plunging the Muslim country into chaos and anarchy.

Over 40,000 people have lost their lives in the three years of political violence in Algeria.

Repudiates 'Forged' Statements

MM0404102895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
3 Apr 95 p 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Algeria: Salvation Front Denies 'Forged' Statements"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—A leading member of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad has stated that the claims about victories by

the Algerian security forces "are mere lies and rumors." The leading figure, who wished to remain anonymous, said that "the aim of that campaign is to convince the political parties that the military are capable of scoring victory and of settling the situation in their favor, as a way of putting pressure on the parties to accept the regime's plan for presidential elections."

He said he was convinced that that campaign "will be exposed within two weeks and it will become clear to everyone that the military have scored no victories and that the situation is worse."

The FIS Executive Committee abroad issued a statement yesterday, unsigned because the German authorities do not allow Shaykh Rabeh Kebir, the committee's chairman, to engage in any public political activity. The statement repudiated what it described as "tendentious rumors, false propaganda about imaginary victories, and forged statements." The committee denied the two statements attributed to the FIS, the first claiming that Madani Mezrak, commander of the [Islamic] Salvation Army [AIS], has replaced Shaykh Abassi Madani and Shaykh Ali Belhadj as FIS leader, and the other attacking the Armed Islamic Group [GIA], naming in particular Shaykh Mohamed Said who had announced that he was joining the GIA and who is a well-known leader of a strong Algerian Islamic trend and a famous Islamic figure in Algeria.

The leading FIS figure told AL-HAYAH that the FIS "would never issue a statement attacking any figure or group hostile to the [ruling] clique and working for its downfall, but it (FIS) only criticizes positions which run contrary to what it believes in and clearly violate the Koran and the prophet's teachings."

He cited the sharp criticism in EL TABSIRAH, which is close to the FIS and published by "the Algerian community in Britain," of "the killing of children and women and rape of prisoners," and the claim that the GIA allowed this as a matter of vengeance against government officials. EL TABSIRAH emphasized that the killing of women and children and the taking of hostages is prohibited in the current conflict in Algeria.

He denied that Madani Mezrak, the amir of the AIS, had issued a statement accusing the GIA of being mercenary and strongly attacking it. The Algerian press had, the day before yesterday, published such a statement attributing it to EL TABSIRAH but the latest edition of EL TABSIRAH issued on 24 March did not contain the alleged statement.

FIS Official Says Ready To Negotiate With Zeroual

BR0304130795 Paris LE FIGARO in French 3 Apr 95
p 4

[Interview with Anouar Haddam, FIS representative in Washington, by Thierry Desjardins; place and date not

given: "Anouar Haddam: 'We Do Not Want an Iron Curtain Between the West and Islam'"

[FBIS Translated Text] [Desjardins] The Algerian Army has just struck a fierce blow against the Islamists. What do you intend to do now?

[Haddam] For us, the situation is very clear. All the political forces in Algeria, ranging from the National Liberation Front, and Ben Bella, to the FFS [Socialist Forces Front] have agreed with us on a platform that will open up the way toward discussions aimed at ensuring our return to the democratic process. All of us together suggested to the military that we get together around a table and organize a period of transition and elections. Of course, we shall be proposing the establishment of an Islamic Republic; the others will propose what they want, and then the people will choose. The military refused to go along with this.

[Desjardins] So what are you going to do?

[Haddam] We shall soon be holding another meeting with the democrats in a European capital, just like the meeting we had in Rome. We will launch a massive information campaign so that all the major powers are well aware that the democrats and Islamists in their entirety are forming a common front with a view to demanding that the military reverts to the democratic process. The major democratic powers must put pressure on the military. The provision of the regime with economic aid must go hand in hand with the military's acceptance of our platform. In Africa, France is linking its aid to a certain form of democratization. Well, we are asking that the countries thanks to whose help the Algerian regime is surviving demand that it negotiate how life in Algeria might return to normal.

[Desjardins] Are you ready to participate in a dialogue with General Zeroual?

[Haddam] On several occasions we have reiterated that all Zeroual has to do is dissociate himself from the people who were behind the military coup and he can sit down at the negotiating table, tomorrow if he wants.

[Desjardins] But what can you negotiate with him?

[Haddam] It is not a matter of negotiating a compromise between the kind of state that the military wants and the Islamic Republic that we want. It will be up to the people to decide. With Zeroual we would like to negotiate the ways in which the people will be able to choose. We must negotiate the transition of power, not the future of Algeria. However, we are ready to help Zeroual out of his impasse. He must not feel cornered in, alone with the eradicators, because we do not want to inherit a country that has been plunged deep into chaos. We do not want a second Secret Army Organization.

'Two Languages'

[Desjardins] Do you control the armed groups?

[Haddam] People talking about opposition between the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], the Islamic Salvation Army, and the Armed Islamic Group just say anything. In Algeria, those leaders of the FIS who are not in prison have gone underground. However, the political direction of the FIS in Algeria is with the armed Islamic groups. It is helping them, leading them, uniting them, and mustering them together, because what we want to avoid at all costs the day after victory has been secured is the kind of bloody confrontations that are going on in Afghanistan.

[Desjardins] Do you fear opposition from the Kabyles?

[Haddam] The military is trying to cause the Kabyles to rise up against us. That is absurd. The lion's share of Kabyle land, the FFS under Ait Ahmed, is on our side against the military. In the elections the FIS was the second most popular party in the Kabyle region. Many of our militant members, Abassi Madani, to name but one, are Kabyles. On the other hand, the Kabyles know that the cultural freedom they have claimed in vain is one of the things that the FIS is calling for.

[Desjardins] What do you think of France's attitude?

[Haddam] The problem is that there are two languages being spoken, one by [Interior Minister] Pasqua and one by [Foreign Minister] Juppe. The French Government is toeing Pasqua's line and sending arms and money to the military dictatorship, but Juppe has brought us to understand that there is another France that does not subscribe to the outmoded colonialist attitude. Regarding your presidential election I hope that Juppe's France will win the day over Pasqua's France, because from our point of view Algeria cannot afford not to have good relations with France.

[Desjardins] You have not always said that.

[Haddam] We do not want an Iron Curtain to fall between the West and Islam, as once divided the East from the West. We aim to live together, not confront each other. We are convinced that Algeria can serve as a bridge between the West and Islam.

[Desjardins] Nonetheless, the impression given is that you are playing the U.S. card against France.

[Haddam] I set up in Washington because France did not want me. Having said that, it is also true that we want to diversify our foreign policy. Moreover, it is true that the United States is listening attentively to us. However, some European countries are starting to adopt a more kindly view toward us. We were very cordially received in Rome, even in a church. I will go to Paris if I am given a visa. The French must understand that Algeria will be open to everyone. The French have nothing to be worried about.

[Desjardins] All the same do you admit that the current violence, and your speeches—whenever they are not addressed to the West—as well as the Iranian precedent are something to worry about?

[Haddam] The violence is something that the military started, and it is they who have been responsible for the atrocious crimes committed over the past few months. Most of our speeches are distorted. As for the Iranian example, that has nothing to do with Algeria: Islam assumes a different form in each country.

Tensions Between FIS, Armed Group Viewed

MM0404111895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
1 Apr 95 p4

[Report by Camille al-Tawil in London: "Will the Conflict Between the 'Front' and the 'Group' Turn Into a Fight in Algeria?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian Islamic arena seems to be today on the threshold of a war akin to the internecine war that flared up among the Afghan Mujahidin following the collapse of the communist regime in Kabul. This impression is reinforced by the flood of reports published by the Algerian local press about bloody confrontations between the Islamic Armed Group [GIA] and the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS] in more than one area as well as the numerous statements which are being circulated in Europe, attributed to the GIA, strongly criticizing the military wing of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and warning against resolving matters with it once and for all.

Islamic sources close to the FIS have admitted that relations between the two sides are not good, but they do not believe that the conflicts between them will grow to the extent of turning into a confrontation. They point out that "numerous quarters have been trying to exploit the contradictions between the two sides by issuing statements [attributed to leaders of the two organizations] which later turn out to be untrue."

The aforementioned Islamic sources also refer to the statement attributed two days ago to the FIS Executive Committee abroad, headed by Shaykh Rabeh Kebir. This "forged" statement contained criticism of the GIA and Shaykh Mohamed Said, one of the preachers who declared allegiance to the GIA in 1993. One of the sources said that that statement and its specific reference to Mohamed Said was nothing but a "mere attempt to arouse sensitivities within the FIS."

The talk of tension between the GIA and the AIS was sparked off as a result of statements issued in the name of Bou Abderrahmane Lamine, the commander of the GIA, in which he warned against resorting to resolving matters with pockets that have dissented from the "Jihad" and considered his group as the only group that raises the banners of Jihad in Algeria. But Abdallah Anas, a prominent FIS figure, retorted by warning the group against sparking off a "sedition".

Some time ago, the GIA had succeeded in attracting several FIS leaders and persuading them to join its ranks. Perhaps the most prominent of the leaders to do so were Shaykh Mohamed Said and Shaykh Said Makhloufi

(leader of the Islamic State Movement) [Harakat al-Dawlah al-Islamiyah] in addition to a number of other responsible FIS officials. All of these declared allegiance to the former GIA Commander Bou Abdallah Ahmed during a large meeting held in 1993, and pledged to operate under the GIA's banners.

A number of FIS leaders expressed their indignation at the time at the way in which "the unity of groups under the GIA banners" was announced, which gave the impression that the FIS had dissolved itself into the GIA. But the FIS officials categorically denied that their front had been dissolved within the framework of the GIA.

Yet despite the continuous flood of reports of confrontations between the GIA and the FIS, the two sides have succeeded throughout the past two years in overcoming to a great extent the sensitivities between them that followed the proclamation of unity. The GIA fighters and the fighters considered to belong to the FIS coexisted well in several areas and facilitated each other's movements during the battles against the Algerian army.

But this coordination in the battlefields was not translated into political matters. It transpired that the GIA was operating within the framework of a rigorous policy that failed to win the approval of the FIS, which quite often declared that it pursues a middle-of-the-road policy in its dealings (the FIS basic law and the methods of Shaykh Ali Belhadj).

There was an impression also that the FIS had been turning a blind eye to some of the GIA's activities, because they served the FIS' purposes by highlighting the extent of its moderation. Indeed, this moderation was manifested on numerous occasions such as: its participation in the general elections operation until the end, its pledge to hold deliberations with the regime in power, and its acceptance of the regime as a partner in the game (the signing of the Rome covenant together with dissimilar parties) like any other party.

It was thought also that the GIA's extremism will render the FIS more acceptable to some quarters which are considered to belong to the "Arab Islamic current" within the ranks of the regime. This actually happened when the regime initiated a dialogue with the FIS leaders at Bleida prison which ended in the release of some of them and the placing of Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj under house arrest.

The highest level contact that took place between the GIA and the FIS was that between Shaykh Ali Belhadj and Bou Abdallah Ahmed, who was killed last September during a clash with the regime's security forces. The contact took the form of messages written by the young shaykh during his house arrest and found later with the GIA at the time of his death.

The regime interpreted the messages as a sign of "support" for the GIA in its fight against the regime. But the FIS leaders interpreted these messages as an attempt to

convince the GIA that the crisis could be resolved through negotiations, something that the GIA rejects.

Perhaps what annoys the FIS, which refuses to discuss this matter, most of all was that the GIA has been permitting non-Algerians to speak on its behalf abroad. Circles considered to belong to the FIS, but who do not speak in its name, have stated that people renowned for their religious extremism and repudiation of the majority of the other Islamic groups, have been actively operating with the GIA ranks. These circles are worried lest this extremist way of thinking by these people might lead to a "sedition" in Algeria such as happened in Afghanistan, where some of these people with extreme ideas themselves had been at some time also.

The AL-ANSAR pamphlet is considered to be the publication closest to the GIA abroad, though it does not speak in its name. For some time, this publication has been waging a campaign against the information media which had published a statement issued by "The European Bureau Members" of the GIA. The pamphlet refuted the veracity of reports about the statement, which was circulated in London—by people close to the GIA—and which contained criticism of some persons who act in the name of the GIA in Europe. AL-ANSAR also criticized the issuing of statements in the name of the AIS, which unified its ranks under the command of a "national commander," namely Madani Mezrak, considered the AIS to be inferior to the GIA in field operations, and criticized Bou Abderrahmane Lamine's statements about settling matters with those who disented from the GIA, by which he meant the AIS.

The pamphlet strongly attacked the FIS leaders abroad such as Shaykh Rabeh Kebir and Anouar Haddam. It accused Kebir specifically of collecting funds in support of the Jihad but never sending the money thus collected to the Mujahidin. It also tried to arouse suspicions about Shaykh Ali Belhadj's support for leaders abroad in the signing of the National Covenant in Rome together with seven other Algerian parties.

The FIS officials abroad try not to respond to what the AL-ANSAR pamphlet publishes. This indifference is attributed to two matters: Firstly, that they doubt many of the positions attributed to the GIA leaders abroad and distinguish between them and those of the "genuine GIA" leaders in Algeria, who publish their own pamphlet called "The Group." Secondly, that they enjoy the clear political support of the FIS political leaders internally, specifically represented by Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. Kebir and Haddam would not have signed the Rome covenant had they not obtained the blessings of the two shaykhs for doing so.

Observers of Algerian affairs say that Shaykh Ali Belhadj is the only one today capable of resolving the situation in the Islamic arena in the field, in a manner that serves the interest of both sides. They attribute their analysis to the fact that the people said to belong to the GIA have never

tried at any time whatsoever to attack the person of the young shaykh, despite their criticism of the FIS policy.

Islamic sources close to the FIS believe that the shaykh, who is renowned for his wide knowledge of and great experience in matters of religious jurisprudence, is capable of convincing the GIA to believe in his position particularly as the GIA lacks—with the possible exception of Shaykh Mohamed Said—renowned ulemas in the Islamic arena to support its policy. These sources blame the Algerian regime for what could take place in the country if Shaykhs Madani and Belhadj remain under detention. They feel that preventing these two shaykhs from freely contacting those in the field (the armed men) will only help to strengthen the extremist current which rejects any peaceful solution of the crisis.

MDA Leader 'Not at All Ready' To Discuss Elections

LD0304185895 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1700 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dialogue may have a chance at last in Algeria: Four opposition parties have agreed to meet President Zeroual, including the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA], led by the former head of state, Ahmed Ben Bella. Ben Bella, who was interviewed by Emmanuel Delattre in Rome, explains on which bases and in what circumstances this dialogue can be resumed:

[Begin recording] [Ben Bella] In any case, it is not forbidden to hold talks. We must communicate, we must encourage dialogue, but the agreement which might be achieved must heed scrupulously to the proposals which have been made by the Rome platform.

[Delattre] You are now ready to hold talks with the authorities about the organization of presidential elections before the end of this year, are you not?

[Ben Bella] No, we are not at all ready to discuss presidential elections at the end of the year if nothing changes, if we are still experiencing the situation which prevails today. It is [words indistinct] to hold elections in a country which is torn—terribly torn—and where people are having their throats slit every day, where people are getting killed every day. These are elections [words indistinct] in a cemetery, I'm sorry to say. I do not believe in this type of elections, which will probably be rigged elections once again. Elections in the present conditions would be sheer madness. In any case, these are not elections which will convince the Algerians. [end recording]

Zeroual Receives FLN Delegation Led by Mehri

LD0204134195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the framework of the consultations that the presidency of the state has begun with the political parties and organizations to discuss presidential elections, President Liamine Zeroual received at the

presidency this morning a delegation of the National Liberation Front [FLN] led by Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri.

The meeting was attended by Mohamed Betchine, minister adviser to the president; Ahmed Ouyahia, chief secretary of the presidency; the president's political adviser Yousef el-Khatib; and Mihoubi Mihoub, diplomatic adviser and official spokesman for the presidency. The FLN was represented by Abdelaziz Belkhadem, Boualem Benhamouda, and Ali Benflis, who are all members of the party's political bureau.

Zeroual To Study FLN Proposals

JN0304191295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish in Algiers]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of his meeting with the delegation of the National Liberation Front [FLN], President Lamine Zeroual has promised to study the memorandum which was presented to him by Abdelhamid Mehri and which contained practical proposals for reaching a peaceful solution to the Algerian crisis. Nothing indicates, however, that President Zeroual has changed his position on incorporating the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] into the dialogue and on the presidential elections.

The FLN memorandum contains phased practical proposals:

- Embark on preparations for launching a serious dialogue with the participation of the FIS.
- The parties to the dialogue should reach agreement on laying down arms immediately for an unlimited period.
- All parties to the dialogue should abide by finding a comprehensive political solution to the crisis through dialogue.
- A committee will then be formed from the involved parties to study the technical, organizational, and human issues and to propose solutions to these issues.

The FLN memorandum says that these measures should be taken within two or three weeks, at most; that is, before 'Id al-Adha. The later stage will then be devoted to discussing the overall issues to reach a comprehensive political solution by returning to the constitutional legitimacy and elections, as well as reaching an agreement on these issues, a timetable for implementing it, and the guarantees and mechanism for implementing it.

The FLN memorandum makes no reference to the Sant Egidio agreement and does not set as conditions the release of Madani and Belhadj and the adoption of reconciliatory measures by the regime. These concessions, however, will not be enough for President Zeroual and the military leadership. The recent security victories have made the regime feel strong and that it does not

have to make any concessions at the present time. The FLN is aware of this, but it wants to throw the ball into President Zeroual's court.

Foreign Minister Assails External 'Interference'

MM0404112395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Apr 95 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by Faris al-Salman in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Salman] Some people believe that the recent national covenant signed in Rome is a circumvention of the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] by the ordinary political parties.

[Dembri] As far as we are concerned the Rome document is of no significance. Because we believe this document is remote from the Algerians. We were surprised that some parties should meet abroad and turn internal discussions into external discussions—which we reject. There is a political-economic program offering reforms at all levels and providing ways of extricating the country from the political crisis through elections. This political program is awaiting the organization of presidential elections before the end of the year. This plan was and still is open to a national dialogue grouping all parties and figures, provided the 1989 agreement—which stipulates party pluralism, power rotation, the people's sovereignty, and the nonuse of violence as a means to reach or remain in power—is respected.

[Al-Salman] You said that the presidential elections will be organized this year. Do you believe that the security situation will allow these elections to be held?

[Dembri] Of course, we are faced with difficulties. But we should not forget that conditions have begun to improve. And in order to hold the elections we must secure better conditions so that they may be held in a secure atmosphere. Generally speaking, we still have time, and Algerian public opinion wants the elections to be held, whatever the difficulties.

[Al-Salman] And how would you assess the parties that met in Rome?

[Dembri] As I said, the Rome document is of no significance, as far as we are concerned. But if they (the parties) reenter Algeria, respect the national constitutional norms, and comply with the rules of the game accepted by the other personalities, it is a different matter. We reject interference in our internal affairs by some foreign states. And we will not accept the political parties that go abroad to negotiate with foreigners.

[Al-Salman] Which states have interfered in your internal affairs?

[Dembri] You said that the meeting was held in Rome, so who supervised its organization, who provided the venue, and who was the official spokesman for that

seminar? These questions should be put to those who participated in that seminar.

[Al-Salman] And who was the official spokesman for that seminar?

[Dembri] The seminar was held under the Vatican's sponsorship. That is known. And the seminar was organized by Professor "Riccardi." He visited some states, and we are monitoring these movements.

[Al-Salman] The FIS's experiment in the political game is not based on experience. Why does the government not use its political experience and push the FIS into a complex "political game" in which no one other than politicians succeed?

[Dembri] That is not new. Last year President Liamine Zeroual—when he was defense minister—contacted some figures from the outlawed party to reactivate the national dialogue. The reply was an official letter from Abassi Madani, stipulating respect for constitutional and legal norms, pluralism, and so on. But most regrettably, it did not yet reflect a great will. Anyone who accepts the principles of dialogue represented in respect for the constitutional norms can play a role in all proposed stages in order to normalize national conditions.

[Al-Salman] Some people claim that it is heroic merely to stay alive these days, given the number of people killed over the past three years—30,000.

[Dembri] What is the source of that figure?

[Al-Salman] That is what was mentioned in the interview conducted by Amir Taheri with Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi.

[Dembri] That is untrue. The official figures were provided recently by the country's competent official quarters.

Interior Minister Condemns Nation's 'Suicidal Spirit'

LD0104210295 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, the minister of interior and local authorities, arrived in Medea this morning on an inspection visit to several housing projects. [passage omitted]

The interior minister concluded his visit by holding a working session with the Medea province citizens' representatives and officials. He heard their concerns, the most important being housing, electricity in rural areas, the shortage of drinking water, and other problems.

Later the minister delivered a lengthy speech in which he focused on the improvement of security in the province. He said:

[Begin Meziane Cherif recording] Some people have been working for an Algerian killing his brother Algerian and destroying the installations that belong to his

country and people. Where has this mass suicidal spirit come from? This one wants to be more Islamic than others in order to impose his views with iron, fire, and dagger, forgetting that Islam forbids these methods and this kind of behavior, particularly against Muslims. The other wants to be more democratic than others, rejecting any contradictory views. Yet another is trying to use the linguistic and cultural peculiarities that characterizes our national identity, ignoring the fact that he had followed a dead end path, which does not benefit the country or the worshippers.

I am fully convinced that we are capable of resolving our own problems. Under no circumstances must these irrational conflicts and fighting undermine our national unity, which is the most sacred thing to us.

You are well aware that Algeria's stability and unity does not please everyone. Some people believe Algeria's weakness is their strength, and some imagine that the economic collapse of Algeria would benefit them, while others have old scores to settle with Algeria's giant revolution, and they want to destroy it. [end recording]

Army Destroys Islamist Convoy En Route From Libya

LD0304144195 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the army offensive against Islamist groups continues. According to the daily newspaper LIBERTE, last Friday [31 March] the army destroyed a convoy of lorries carrying Islamists and weapons. The convoy had reportedly come from Sudan via Libya. LIBERTE says the convoy was attacked on Algerian territory, near the Libyan border, and that it was annihilated after having been tracked by the Air Force.

Nation To Export Agricultural Equipment to Iraq

LD0304142395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The agricultural equipment complex in Sidi Bel Abbes has begun to export new equipment to Iraq. Details of the operation in this report:

We have learned this from sources close to the administration of the complex. The sources added that contacts between PMA [national enterprise for the production of agricultural equipment] managers and the Iraqis started at the beginning of this year, and on the basis of that it has been possible to determine Iraq's needs and requirements of agricultural equipment. The two sides have made a list of 11 items of Algerian agricultural equipment that will be sent to Iraq. This deal which was struck by PMA with Iraq is very important, particularly since the plant's products are as good as any international products.

Security Forces Reportedly Kill 33 'Criminals'

LD0104190795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the Security Services today said that 33 criminals, 12 of whom were

in Constantine, were eliminated during several operations carried out by the security forces between 29 March and today in Constantine, Tiaret, Tlemcen, Jijel, Skikda, and Mascara.

The statement added that the security forces detained six people in Tipaza and Constantine for aiding and abetting armed groups, and the detainees were referred to justice by the investigating judge.

The security forces were able to recover a quantity of weapons during the operations.

Kill Another 22 'Criminals'

LD0304193195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services today announced that its forces had eliminated 22 criminals and arrested another number of them during various operations in Tiaret, Chelef, Constantine, Blida, Algiers, and some other regions. They have also arrested 44 persons accused of helping criminals and attempted assassinations in Boumerdes, Mostaganem, Bouira, and Jijel. The security forces also recovered a considerable quantity of weapons and ammunition.

Ministry of Commerce: Price of Bread Rises

LD0204051795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Commerce today announced a slight increase in the prices of choice and regular bread, which will come into force as from tomorrow morning.

The ministry said that the increase aimed at improving the conditions of providing this vital item, and it stressed that the bread price subsidy would continue throughout this year even if the cost of imported wheat and corn went up.

Egypt

Reportage on Mubarak's Visit to the United States

Al-Baz on 'Preliminary' Talks

NC0304184195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 3 Apr—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that the current Egyptian-U.S. talks are exploratory preliminary to the meetings that President Mubarak will hold with U.S. President Clinton and with Congressional leaders. He said the United States has shown great interest in maintaining good relations with Egypt. This interest is shared by the U.S. Administration, the U.S. Congress, and all U.S. foreign-policy makers.

Al-Baz affirmed that Egypt has not changed its stance on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. He indicated that from the beginning the Egyptian stance has been reasonable and is based on a firm foundation. He said: We attach importance to this treaty because it is part of our concept of banning weapons of mass destruction in our region.

Al-Baz: We want the signing of the treaty to take place at the same time that Israel shows a serious move toward the treaty so that security in the Middle East will be balanced and equitable and so that no nuclear race will occur in the region later on because one of the states in the region possesses a nuclear program.

Al-Baz indicated that in order to achieve stable peace and security in the region, two principles must be upheld. The first principle is equality in the sense that no state should have an element of superiority or an edge over other states. The second principle is the universality of the NPT, which means that Israel must join the treaty. He added: Israel and its neighbors must engage in serious talks to agree on a formula to rid the region of nuclear weapons as part of an initiative to remove the weapons of mass destruction from the region. We hope that in the current contacts with Israel, the Israeli side will show more seriousness so that it will be possible to bridge the gap between the two countries in the coming two years.

Al-Baz said: We want to know how far Israel is prepared to engage in serious talks with us to agree on specific measures to liquidate the Israeli nuclear program within a reasonable period of time.

He indicated that the international community could help in this regard by talking Israel into joining the treaty and giving guarantees to the states of the region.

On whether the United States intends to intercede with Israel to convince it of this, al-Baz said: The United States is prepared to listen to the viewpoints of the two sides. There are also several states that have expressed an opinion on this subject. Some European countries and Japan have expressed an opinion on this subject and have shown an interest in an agreement on the extension of the NPT. They believe the Egyptian stance is legitimate and they are concerned about the situation in the Middle East. Asked how this obstacle could be overcome, al-Baz said: These states do not to involve themselves in this subject.

Al-Baz said: We want the United States to at least understand the Egyptian stance carefully. We were with the treaty before, we are still with it now, and we want it to continue. But for the treaty to succeed, it must be based on firm conditions, especially in tense regions.

Al-Baz described the current talks with the United States as constructive and friendly. The final evaluation of these talks will be made after the Mubarak-Clinton meeting.

Al-Baz asserted that the Egyptian stance on the NPT will be defined in the appropriate time and before the end of the conference on 12 May in the light of our evaluation of the Israeli reaction.

Asked about U.S. criticism of Egyptian-Libyan relations, al-Baz said: I do not believe the United States or other states object to our policy toward Libya. Perhaps some writers or pressure groups have addressed this subject.

He affirmed that Egypt's policy toward its Arab sister states and the other states of the region are not determined by the pressure groups but by Egypt's concept of national interests.

Musa on Israeli NPT Stance, Signing

NC0304182495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT
3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington 3 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that Egypt is not opposed to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He said: We are participants in this treaty, and the presence of the Israeli nuclear program is what restricts our support for the extension of this treaty.

The foreign minister noted in statements he made in Washington today that contacts and meetings are currently taking place on this matter. He said Egypt's stance is well-known. He affirmed that there is no change in the Egyptian stance and that it is crystal clear. Egypt is not opposed to the treaty. Our stance was explained through the current contacts with the U.S. side and with Israel.

'Amr Musa clarified that the talks with the U.S. side are not restricted only to this treaty, but there are other subjects that are being discussed such as the peace process in the Middle East, the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, and the situation in the Gaza Strip, particularly economic conditions.

He added that the Egyptian-U.S. talks also address bilateral relations.

Musa Details Mubarak Talks on NPT

NC0304201895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the two sides discussed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), Israel's nuclear program, the Middle East peace process, and bilateral Egyptian-U.S. relations.

Musa said the U.S. Secretary of State submitted to President Mubarak a report on Israel's nuclear program. He added that he will hold another meeting with Christopher on Wednesday morning before the meeting between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton to follow up the same subjects and exchange views on them.

Musa affirmed that there is a U.S. understanding of Egypt's stance on the NPT. He explained that the Egypt's

stance is legitimate and logical, particularly as Israel has a nuclear program, which does not come under the NPT's supervision.

Musa affirmed that Egypt is not against the NPT but on the contrary it is a fully active member of the NPT. However, the existence of this Israeli program restricts Egypt's support for the periods suggested for the extension of the NPT.

Musa said contacts and meetings are continuing, indicating that Egypt's stance clear and well-known. He affirmed that there is no change in Egypt's stance on the NPT. This stand, which is not against the NPT, has been fully explained to the United States and Israel. He said Egypt's stance is a regional issue which is not connected with the NPT.

Concerning what would satisfy Egypt, Musa said what satisfies Egypt is Israel's joining the NPT. If it does join, Egypt will have another stance. He said we want to establish peace and security for all—Arabs, Israelis, and others.

Officials View Talks With Gore

NC0404060395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0215 GMT
4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 4 Apr (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that President Mubarak's meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore was an opportunity to discuss various issues and topics, including the peace process, the partnership agreement, and the economic cooperation between Egypt and the United States. He said that President Mubarak and Al Gore exchanged views on several international issues.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that President Mubarak and the U.S. vice president discussed several issues, including bilateral relations, the Egyptian-U.S. partnership agreement, the peace process, and the situation in the region.

On whether Gore presented new U.S. ideas concerning the peace process, the foreign minister said that the United States continues to play its role in connection with the peace process. He added that the United States is still interested in this process, particularly on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks.

Musa added that the U.S. officials were briefed on Egypt's viewpoint concerning the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. President Mubarak also listened to the U.S. viewpoint in this regard. The foreign minister noted that contacts are still continuing and that the Egyptian stance on this issue has not changed.

Commentary Views 'Working Visit'

NC0304161995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "A Working Visit for Peace and Development"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his trips abroad, President Husni Mubarak always carries with him the homeland's concerns and hopes. These include his efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace and to speed up the pace of development. President Mubarak's current visit to the United States falls within this context. He will meet with a large number of congressional leaders and high-ranking U.S. Government officials. He will culminate the visit with a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton on Wednesday [5 April].

Observers are unanimous that President Mubarak's talks in the U.S. capital are an important link in Egypt's continuing efforts to accelerate the wheel of peace in the Middle East and support the march of development. On this occasion, we must note that the relations between Washington and Cairo are close and strong and occupy an important position on the map of Egypt's foreign policy. These deep-rooted relations continue to grow in view of the two countries' strong friendship, joint interests, and desire to cultivate bilateral relations, establish a just and comprehensive peace and balanced security in the region, encourage the flow of trade and joint investments, and transfer advanced technology to Egypt. Therefore, the attention of observers and the public in the region is riveted on the outcome of this visit in view of the importance of the topics under discussion, their priority for the people of the region, and the clarity of Egypt's stance. This stance expresses a strong Arab position, which has chosen the path of a just and comprehensive peace. President Mubarak is the author of the initiative to rid the region of weapons of destruction. He is also a sponsor of social development and economic reform projects. Peace and comprehensive development are two wings of President Mubarak's policy. These two wings are proceeding in parallel in the interest of the homeland and the citizens.

In his talks with U.S. Government officials, President Mubarak will be frank and clear, will defend international legitimacy, and will seek to establish justice and peace. These stands fortify the anticipated Egyptian-U.S. talks. In addition, President Mubarak is greatly respected by U.S. Congress members and the U.S. people. This respect is reflected in several invitations President Mubarak has received to speak on major U.S. television networks.

The United States realizes that Egypt's stands are principled and clear. Perhaps this will be a prelude to a real understanding of Egypt's viewpoint on the issues that will be discussed at the Mubarak-Clinton summit, especially regarding the need to rid the Middle East region of nuclear weapons.

The U.S. efforts to promote the peace talks in the region on all tracks are appreciated. The U.S. Administration is urged to make more efforts to push forward the peace process to complete the Palestinian-Israeli peace and achieve concrete progress on the Syrian-Israeli tracks.

This can only be achieved through active U.S. participation in the talks and its submission of courageous initiatives to rescue the peace process from the predicament it has reached because of Israel's intransigence. The U.S. Administration's success in achieving peace in the region will inject new life into the Middle East and will turn the whole region toward economic development.

We can say that the U.S. Administration realizes the importance of this visit. It has expressed readiness to listen and understand President Mubarak's ideas on various topical issues. Doubtless, this visit, for which there has been good and careful preparation in view of the importance the two sides attach to it, is by all standards slated to succeed in achieving the desired goals and missions on the level of Egyptian-U.S. relations and also the issues of peace and security in the Middle East.

President Mubarak Interviewed by U.S. Media

Discusses Aid on CNN

*NC0304192995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT
3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 3 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has announced that he is not afraid of the possibility of a decrease in American aid to Egypt. He said in an interview with the U.S. CABLE NEWS NETWORK, CNN, this evening that he knows very well that the aid won't last forever and that he expects it will gradually be decreased starting within a year or two. However, he pointed out that this aid represents the joint interests of both Egypt and the United States because Egypt imports around \$4.3 billion in goods from the United States, while it exports only around \$600 million worth in goods to the United States.

Answering a question on the effects of the decrease in U.S. aid to Egypt and the future of the government there, President Mubarak said: Of course we will be affected somewhat in Egypt. As regards the future of the government, we are doing a very good job in the economic reform plan. He added: We are preparing ourselves for any future decrease in aid, and this is not a problem.

With regard to a question on what some economic experts are saying about Egypt's economy, that it is not proceeding fast enough toward economic reform, President Mubarak said that the basis for economic activity depends on how the people accept economic reform.

He added: We are progressing well, but we cannot do the same thing many other countries are doing. We have a different set of people with different traditions. Our way of life is different; nevertheless, we are very keen on implementing economic reform.

President Husni Mubarak affirmed that Egypt respects human rights. He pointed out that the non-governmental organizations that write reports about what they allege to be human rights violations do so from information they gather from criminals, extremists, and fundamentalists.

They meet with them and cite them on what they allege. The first draft of the report is then written as though the human rights groups were interested only in the rights of criminals who kill others, and not at all interested in the innocent people or those who lost their children, husbands, or relatives.

President Mubarak added: If these people want to interview criminals, they must also meet with the innocent people and ask them their views. They must also ask the government who will then tell them the truth. Thus, they would gather information, which would allow them to arrive at the right conclusions.

President Mubarak said: I am not saying that there are no human rights violations. There are certainly some. But there is also the judiciary. He went on: Though there are some violations in Egypt, these same violations exist everywhere else in the world, not only in Egypt. However, we are very eager to respect human rights.

Answering a question on the worries some people have from the force of the Islamic resistance against the Egyptian Government, and concerns regarding Egypt's stability in the future, President Mubarak said I am not worried about Egypt's stability. I would like to say here that these people are not Islamic fundamentalists; they are criminals. I do not call them Islamic fundamentalists because Islam has nothing to do with the acts of violence they commit. When the police arrest these criminals, most of them are referred to the courts, and we know that they are receiving funding from abroad. Most of them do not have the faintest idea about Islam.

Regarding Egypt's stand on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and linking its agreement to sign it dependent on Israel doing the same, President Mubarak said: Egypt was among the first countries that signed the treaty in 1968. He then referred to Egypt's call to turn the Middle East into a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and added that Egypt's stand on Israel's signing was raised at the time of the treaty's renewal.

He went on to say: Israel's insistence on not signing the NPT has incited Egyptian public opinion and agitated the professional associations and other establishments, which are demanding that Israel sign it, particularly in light of the state of peace between Egypt and Israel that has been in existence for 17 years and the consequent expansion of peace between Israel and its neighbors, as manifested by the signing of the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestinians, the signing of the peace agreement between Jordan and Israel, and the peace we expect Syria and Israel to reach. He said that contacts are under way between Egypt and Israel and that the former is demanding that Israel announce its intention to sign the treaty within a definite period of time and that the two countries form a committee to discuss this issue.

In response to a question on whether he intends to visit Israel, President replied that this is not a problem and

that he could visit it, but at the proper time. He said that Israel has to prepare the right climate for such a visit by helping make progress in the peace process, specially between the Palestinians and Israelis. He added that the Palestinian issue remains at the heart of the issue of achieving progress and peace in the region.

Regarding the Arab League's future, whether changes to it must be made, and the possibility of changing its stand toward Israel, President Mubarak stressed that the League is the "House of the Arabs." He referred in this respect to his speech before the League Council when it celebrated its 50th anniversary, in which he stressed the importance of developing its performance and role and the need to change its Charter so that voting can be amended and the League's resolutions can become effective with a majority vote instead of the current Charter's stipulation of consensus. He also referred to other ideas he propounded about developing the League's performance.

Speaks to LOS ANGELES TIMES

NC0404062295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0023 GMT
4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 4 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has urged the international community to adopt new positions on the Israeli nuclear program now that there has been peace between Egypt and Israel for 17 years and now that peace has been achieved between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and Jordan.

In an interview with the LOS ANGELES TIMES at his residence in Blair House in Washington last night, President Mubarak reiterated Egypt's position concerning the need for Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He said that Egypt calls for making the Treaty a global issue. He urged every country to join the Treaty without linking it with any international bodies.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who attended the meeting, said President Mubarak dealt with the Middle East peace process on its various tracks and noted that the Palestinian issue represents the core of the problem. President Mubarak, al-Sharif added, stressed the need for real peace to be achieved in accordance with the Declaration of Principles signed between the Palestinians and Israelis. The president maintained that any progress on this track would be reflected on the other tracks.

In his interview President Mubarak said that ongoing contacts are taking place to bring the Egyptian and Israeli views closer. He said a committee might be formed to discuss the issue and efforts to work out an agreement.

The information minister said that President Mubarak, touched on various topics during the interview, including the domestic situation. President Mubarak stated that the cycle of violence in Egypt has been halted, adding that this cycle is alien to the spirit of a tolerant Islam.

Asked about the Egyptian economy, President Mubarak said it is making strides and that economic reforms in Egypt are forging ahead, taking into consideration the social dimensions. He said reforms have their own objectives, noting that Egypt is determined to achieve these objectives for the interest of Egyptian society and its sons.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif added that President Mubarak discussed cooperation between Egypt and the United States and the partnership agreement. President Mubarak said that Egypt is currently building its economy and therefore bilateral cooperation and partnership are an important step on this road.

President Mubarak also discussed the need to expand the investment process in Egypt and to construct more projects to confront the problem of unemployment.

The president reiterated the Arab League's important role, noting that the League belongs to all the Arabs.

Article Says Israel Stoking Dispute With U.S.

NC0204201595 *Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic*
31 Mar 95 pp 5-7

[Article by Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "Cairo and Washington: Differences or Crisis?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Mubarak will start his scheduled visit to the United States on Saturday [1 April] in circumstances that confirm the existence of differences between Cairo and Washington that cannot be kept secret. These differences revolve around two fundamental issues: Egypt's stand on the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and its view of the real threats to the Middle East peace process, which differs from that of the United States.

Though the causes of the differences are public and well-known, other parties are working to turn the differences into a serious crisis between the two sides, despite the fact that the differences do not involve a real clash between the two countries' interests.

The two sides disagree on the NPT.

Egypt, while accepting the importance of the Treaty, believes that it cannot agree to an indefinite extension because the neighboring state of Israel—which has peaceful relations with Egypt and which is seeking to normalize relations with the Arab countries and to play an important role in a new Middle East based on regional cooperation—possesses a vast nuclear capacity that is not subject to any international supervision.

But Washington, while accepting Egypt's right to demand and insist on making the Middle East a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, believes that Egypt's stand on extending the NPT should not be dependent on the stands of other parties, even if these include Israel whose nuclear reactor at "Dimona" lies

only a few kms from the Sinai, probably less than that from Jordan, and not that far from the northern Arabian Peninsula.

Egypt is proposing a compromise: namely, that Cairo will agree to extend the NPT extension provided that Israel commit itself to sign it within a specific period. But Israel has not agreed to this.

The second difference concerns the two sides' views of the factors that could threaten the Middle East peace process.

While accepting the need for all possible efforts to stop the escalating wave of violence in the occupied territories, Egypt believes that the Rabin government's dithering in implementing the remaining clauses of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] and its disregard for the harsh conditions facing 'Arafat in Gaza and the desperate conditions of the occupied territories' inhabitants are more serious because they are increasing violence. Cairo also believes that a deadlock in the peace process would prompt the enemies of peace on both sides to rally against it and this could threaten the stability of the entire Middle East and possibly lead to a devastating catastrophe whose dimensions the Americans can not conceive of.

On the other hand, Washington believes that Rabin's stand is right because he is facing an Israeli public whose fears and doubts are increasing as a result of the recent violent incidents inside Israel and that Yasir 'Arafat has to try harder to disarm the Palestinian groups before asking the Israelis to enforce the DOP and expand the self-rule areas to the West Bank territories.

These are the differences between Washington and Cairo that possibly reflect a general Egyptian feeling that the U.S. stand still lacks a spirit of justice and fairness because it poses double standards and because it does not abide by the required measure of objective neutrality that could help the peace process attain its desired objectives.

Egypt has responsibly dealt with its differences with the United States over the NPT issue. It has sought to confine the differences with Israel to the guarantees for equitable security in the Middle East. It has reiterated that, while maintaining its firm stand on refusing to extend the NPT indefinitely, it will not announce its withdrawal from it, will not play an agitator's role hampering Washington's efforts to obtain the necessary legal quorum for renewing the NPT, and will let every Arab party decide its own stand on the treaty based on its understanding of the gravity of the problem.

But the Israelis are stoking the differences so that they will be crucial and a fire that will plunge Egyptian-U.S. relations into a real crisis. Through their extensive control of some of the international and U.S. media they have actively launched a massive propaganda campaign

to isolate the Egyptian stand and force it onto the defensive through ridiculous, sickening, and revulsive accusations.

According to the Israelis, the Egyptians are opposed to an indefinite extension of the NPT not because the Dimona reactor is only a few kms from Egypt's Sinai or because Israel has 200 nuclear warheads while neither Egypt nor any other Arab country has any deterrent to maintain the regional balance of power, but because they are eager to trump up a foreign policy clash to cover up the divisions on their domestic front and because they have a small group of experts and officials who persist in their hostility to Israel, "Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, 'Amr Musa, and Usamah al-Baz."

They—that is the Egyptians—are supposedly exaggerating the dangers to the peace process with the aim of hindering it because they are worried about Egypt's status in the Arab world and the Middle East if Israel succeeds in breaking out of its isolation and ending the Arab boycott.

Regrettably the Israelis are falsifying the facts and ignoring history on these two issues. Through their active propaganda campaign they are trying to depict the Egyptian stand as seeking to stir up a false crisis even though the Egyptian stand is not new or sudden.

The Israelis ignore the firm Egyptian stand on the issue of removing weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East, a stand that has been consistent and continuous from the 1970's to this day, a stand that insists on the need to remove all weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, biological, and chemical—so as to achieve mutual security for all parties. They ignore the fact that Egypt refused to sign the treaty banning chemical weapons two years ago for the same reasons and despite U.S. pressure and insisted that its signing of that treaty be linked to Israel's agreement to remove all weapons of mass destruction, foremost nuclear ones.

On the second issue, the Israelis ignore the fact that Egypt was the first to sign a peace treaty with Israel and was the one that helped expand the peace process to become an Arab-Israeli one that protects the Middle East's security and stability. They ignore the fact that, right from the beginning and even in the Camp David accords, Egypt stressed that the Egyptian-Israeli peace would remain fragile and weak unless it becomes comprehensive and fair and ensures justice and security for all parties.

Still more serious is Israel's insistence that it holds the key to U.S. favor, that it is the only agent that can ensure for Egypt close relations with the United States, and that it can punish Egypt through U.S. hands unless Cairo submits to the Israeli demands, because the Zionist pressure groups that have played a major role in getting U.S. aid to Egypt approved can play the opposite role if Egypt persists in its stand.

It is regrettable that these statements are being made clearly and blatantly by influential Israeli figures. We do, however, find them echoed in a number of commentaries in the U.S. press, which talk too much about U.S. aid that has not achieved its objective because it has failed to promote identical Egyptian and U.S. political stands.

We know how big the United States is, the extent of its influence on international decisions, and its unique international status because it is the sole power in a new world that is witnessing growing chaos and double standards. The U.S. President might in fact be the chairman of the board governing the world, as some people like to describe him. But we also know that our differences with the United States are legitimate and do not mean the end of the world, especially if the issues concern basic Egyptian national interests that do not conflict with critical U.S. interests but which, very regrettably, do not enjoy Israeli approval.

Egypt is not one of the banana republics that it should fear a conflict with the United States on any issue that could arise between the two sides, or whose decision could be influenced by a large-scale campaign like the current media campaign alleging Egypt's need for foreign successes to cover up internal failures. It is as though we are expected to remain quiet and accept Israel's nuclear hegemony over our destiny in order to convince the Americans that we have become more aware of our internal issues. As for Egypt's security and the security of the Egyptians, they can go to hell.

Mubarak's Egypt previously disagreed with the Reagan administration over the importance of the PLO's role in the peace process and the importance of 'Arafat's participation in the settlement efforts. The conflict was acute and heated because the Reagan administration insisted on isolating the region and removing 'Arafat, while Egypt was then claiming that there could be no settlement without the PLO and 'Arafat because no one can replace the Palestinians in any decision regarding the future of the occupied territories.

Egypt differed with the U.S. Administration more than once over the negative U.S. evaluation of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's role in the peace process. Egypt said from the beginning that President al-Asad had honest intentions and that he could accept full peace with Israel provided it withdraws from all of the Golan Heights. However, the Reagan administration insisted on treating Syria as the "small Satan" to appease the pressure groups and Israelis.

Egypt differed, and still does, with the U.S. stance toward the Libyan regime, because Egypt has a basic national interest in the stability of the current situation in Libya, which is a buffer zone for Egypt, particularly with the escalating violence in Algeria and the attempts to export extremism to Egypt.

The conflict with the United States is legitimate and justifiable; however, from Egypt's point of view, it does

not stand in the way of strong and special relations with Washington, because having absolutely identical stands and interests is virtually impossible even among allies, and we consider ourselves friends not allies.

We are partners, despite the differences in power and size, in a special friendship that entails mutual benefits for both sides. If the American friendship with Egypt helps us achieve some of our goals, then Egypt's friendship with the U.S. also helps Washington with many of its interests.

It is in the interest of the United States that there be a secure and stable Middle East because it represents the storehouse of energy that the West and the United States depend on. Egypt is a major pillar of stability in the Middle East. It is a major pillar of security for the Gulf, as was revealed in the Kuwait liberation war.

It is in the interest of the United States for moderation to prevail in the region that is considered one of the most dangerous regions of the world, and which is buffeted by political and ideological currents that reject the West out of desperation with its system of justice. Egypt is a major power for moderation in this region; it rejects the struggle of civilizations and the idea of an inevitable clash with the West; it upholds the necessity of a dialogue with the west, east, north, and south, because that is the only alternative to a clash that will not harm both sides.

Egypt, in the final analysis, is a regional country with a role which it neither fosters nor imposes. If we consider ourselves real partners with a special friendship with the United States, this does not justify having Israel be the key to American satisfaction and the key to this relationship, because partners never enter by the side door.

Mubarak will enter Washington through the main door, differing with it over some of its policies in the region, insisting on preserving Egypt's national rights, and confirming at the same time Egypt's concern over friendship with the United States, despite the differences between them.

U.S. Army Secretary Meets Tantawi, Halabi

NC0304163095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, today received Togo West, U.S. Secretary of the Army, and his delegation. Tantawi and West exchanged views on ways of strengthening military cooperation between Egypt and the United States.

The U.S. visitor also met with Lt. Gen. Salah Halabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces. They exchanged views on military cooperation and the exchange of expertise between the two countries' armed forces.

Police Arrest 'Militants' Planning Cairo Attacks

NC0304212395 Paris AFP in English 2015 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 3 (AFP)—A total of 19 militants of Egypt's main armed Moslem group who were planning to launch attacks in Cairo have been arrested, police said Monday [3 April].

Eight automatic weapons, four bombs, explosives and pamphlets of the banned group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyyah were seized at their homes, they added.

"Nineteen members of terrorist cells of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyyah, who were preparing to launch attacks against police and video clubs, have been arrested in the working-class districts of Hulwan and 'Ain Shams", a police officer said.

They are also suspected of throwing an explosive device at a police car in the centre of Cairo on March 9, he added without saying whether the attack caused casualties.

The militants were now "planning to sow disorder" in Cairo, he said.

On Saturday police arrested 21 other militants accused of firebombing video stores and a restaurant in Cairo.

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyyah (Islamic Group), the main armed militant group in Egypt, carries out most of its attacks in the province of al-Minya, 250 kilometres (155 miles) south of Cairo.

Attacks in the capital became much less frequent after the al-Jama'ah's former military chief Tal'at Yasin Hammam was shot dead in April 1994, the officer said.

A militant campaign of violence to overthrow the government of President Husni Mubarak has left 716 people dead since it was launched in March 1992.

Muslim Brotherhood Denies Training 'Militants'

NC0104122595 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 1 (AFP)—The fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood Saturday [1 April] denied government charges that it was involved in training Islamic militants abroad to carry out attacks in Egypt.

"No members of the Brotherhood have committed any terrorist acts at home or abroad, nor have they tried to contact any terrorist groups," spokesman for the Brotherhood Ma'mun al-Hudaybi told AFP.

"The government has been trying for a long time to stick a charge of terrorism on us. They want push us into doing something rash, but there is nothing which proves any charges," he added.

The interior ministry Thursday arrested four members of the Brotherhood-controlled medical union for allegedly sending members of the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah militant group to "receive military training overseas to commit terrorist acts" in Egypt.

A fifth member of the union charged in the case, Ashraf 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, had gone into hiding abroad, the ministry said.

The training took place in Somalia, Burundi, Yemen, Bosnia and Croatia under the auspices of the union's "Humanitarian Relief Committee," it said.

The ministry accused the Brotherhood of spearheading efforts to turn the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah into its "armed wing."

Police seized video tapes and documents at the medical union and the five had been trailed by security officials for three months, the ministry said.

The Brotherhood says it has renounced violence in its campaign to create an Islamic state in Egypt.

Al-Hudaybi said the arrests were a reaction to the election of two candidates from the Islamic movement to the executive board of the journalists' union last week.

"The accusation of terrorist has become very easy to stick to anyone. But the journalists' elections were a clear sign that intellectuals have accepted the Islamic movement," he said.

The activities of the Relief Committee were "public and known" and 'Abd-al-Ghaffar "is not a fugitive," al-Hudaybi said. "He travels openly and often."

Members of 'Abd-al-Ghaffar's family told AFP Saturday they expected him to return to Egypt face the accusations, but refused to say where he was.

The Relief Committee is tasked with providing humanitarian aid to Moslems in trouble spots around the world.

Sixty-five other Brotherhood members have been arrested this year.

President Husni Mubarak accused the Brotherhood a year ago of being behind the militant violence that has left 715 people dead since March 1992.

President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir banned the Brotherhood in 1954, 25 years after it was founded. But his successor Anwar al-Sadat started tolerating the movement in 1976.

Saudi-Yemen Joint Military Committee Meets**Saudi Side Arrives for Visit**

JN0204140695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saudi side to the Joint Military Committee arrived in Sanaa today for a short working visit to our country. The delegation is led by brother General Muhammad Bin-Salih al-Hammad, chairman of the general staff of the Armed Forces in fraternal Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA, Gen. al-Hammad said he was pleased to visit Yemen, his second country. He noted that the visit is part of complimenting the Joint Yemeni-Saudi Committee talks whose first round was recently held in Riyadh.

The brother head of the Saudi side to the Joint Military Committee lauded the progress of the fraternal talks. He said these talks are progressing well in a cordial and sincere atmosphere.

The Saudi military delegation was welcomed at Sanaa International Airport by brothers Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Inayah, chairman of the general staff and head of the Yemeni side to the Joint Military Committee; the Committee members; a number of officials from the circles concerned; and 'Ali al-Qutaybi, the Saudi ambassador to our country.

Military Committee Begins Talks

JN0304105495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Yemeni-Saudi military committee opened its second round of talks in Sanaa yesterday. The committee is co-chaired by brothers Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, general staff chief, and Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, chief of the Saudi general staff. The meeting was attended by members of the joint military committee from both sides.

In its meeting yesterday, the military committee discussed a number of agenda topics and tasks concerning the application of Article 5 of the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries in Mecca on 27 Ramadan, corresponding to 26 February 1995.

At the beginning of the session, brother Brig. Gen. 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah welcomed to Yemen the Saudi chief of staff and members of the military delegation accompanying him. He indicated that these brotherly meetings, permeated with cordiality and understanding, prove both sides' responsible eagerness to make available a favorable climate for boosting the brotherly bilateral ties to translate the aspirations of the Yemeni and Saudi peoples. He expressed confidence that the two sides will do everything possible to ensure that the talks attain their objectives and achieve good and fruitful

results. He said the talks will help build firm foundations for understanding and boost the brotherly relations between the two neighborly countries in line with the directives of the two countries' leaders and the application of the memorandum of understanding. He said that the memorandum of understanding heralds a new and promising era in bilateral relations.

Yemen's Salih Hails Ties With Saudi Arabia

JN0304194395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President of the Republic, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, received at the presidential palace today brother Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, chief of the general staff in Saudi Arabia and head of the Saudi side to the Yemeni-Saudi joint higher military committee, and the members of his delegation.

The president welcomed the Saudi chief of staff and the members of the Saudi military delegation in their second homeland, Yemen. The president said:

We are very eager to promote the relations of brotherhood and cooperation between the two fraternal and neighborly countries and maintain their safety and security, which will also promote security and peace in the region as a whole. From the very beginning, we were eager to remove all causes of tension and to foil all forms of plots by enemies of the two countries aimed at souring relations and spreading sedition between them and inflaming the region. We have repeatedly stressed that we are proud of our Saudi people and army in the same way as we are proud of our people and army in Yemen, that we care for both based on our awareness that we are brothers, the children of the same nation and faith. We have repeatedly emphasized solving differences by dialogue and brotherly understanding.

God be praised, today, sincere efforts are continuing, including your efforts in the joint military committee to prepare the climate and lay the foundations to achieve the aims of the brotherly relations between the two countries.

The president said: What you are doing in the military committee is a good and fruitful start which will promote the work of other committees and prepare better climates to reach the best results, God willing. We pray to God that your meeting in Sanaa today will be blessed and fruitful. It is not shameful for someone to make concessions to his brother. It is better than offering concessions to foreigners. You represent a single army of which we are proud and for which we care. We are certain that you will live up to our expectations. God willing, we will only see good results, serving the interests and prosperity of the two neighborly countries in the service of the region's security and prosperity.

The Saudi chief of staff had earlier conveyed to the president greetings from His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister

of defense and aviation in Saudi Arabia. He expressed his happiness for listening to these cordial and sincere remarks by the president and voiced his appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him in Yemen. He said: Your instructions and those of the custodian of the two holy mosques will continue to motivate all of us, which indicates that our two peoples will remain in a good state as long as these instructions are observed.

The Saudi chief of staff stressed the desire of both sides to reach the aims of the two brotherly peoples and promote their fraternal relations.

The president gave gifts to the Saudi chief of staff and his delegation, as an expression of the deep fraternal relations between the two peoples of Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was attended by Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, the chief of staff; Brigadier 'Abdallah al-Bashiri, secretary general of the presidency; and the members of the Yemeni side on the Yemeni-Saudi joint military committee.

Bahrain

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

JN0304174195 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT
3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 3 Apr (WAKH)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Manama for Kuwait today after a brief visit to Bahrain during which he conveyed a message to Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah from the Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah dealing with the warm brotherly relations between the two countries and peoples.

In a predeparture statement to WAKH, Shaykh Sabah said that his visit came on instruction from the Kuwaiti amir to convey a cordial message of appreciation from his highness to his brother the amir of Bahrain. He said that he exchanged views with his highness the amir and the prime minister on the firm fraternal relations binding the two countries and peoples.

His highness said that he expressed the feelings of the Kuwaiti amir, government, and people toward the brothers in Bahrain and stressed that any harm that afflicts Bahrain will also afflict Kuwait and the Gulf as a whole. He said that Kuwait deals with the conditions in the region in accordance with our joint interests, voicing the hope that seditions will disappear not only in Bahrain but in the region as a whole, that Bahrain will enjoy stability and safety under its wise leadership.

The Kuwaiti official noted that he met with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah and exchanged views with him on bilateral

relations and issues of concern for the two sisterly countries, the Gulf Cooperation Council states, and the Arab and Islamic nations.

Kuwait

Parliament Holds Session on 'Incursion Incidents'

LD0404103095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0926 GMT
4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 4 Apr, (KUNA)—Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah has asked that today's ordinary session of the National Assembly be held behind closed doors to discuss the incursion incidents which took place recently through the northern borders.

At the public session held under the chairmanship of Salih al-Fadalah, deputy speaker of the National Assembly, who asked members of the public to leave the hall, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said: "I request that the session be held behind closed doors in view of the importance and sensitivity of the information."

Today's session discussed a number of items on the assembly's agenda, including several ministers' replies to questions put by members of the assembly.

Papers Call For End to Violence in Bahrain

LD0304114795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0932 GMT
3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 3 Apr (KUNA)—Kuwaiti newspapers have urged all parties in Bahrain to practice self-restraint, give priority to national interest, and resort to reason to settle the situation and restore it to normal.

In its editorial, AL-WATAN newspaper said: "Kuwait's people and rulers have had historical and always distinguished relations with Bahrain's people and rulers... therefore, and proceeding from this firm reality, Kuwait shares the pain of the Bahraini people over what is taking place there now."

The paper adds: "The wise men of Bahrain have realized that stopping violent acts and mobs is in Bahrain's interest." The paper appeals to "Bahrain's people to stop violence spontaneously and willingly," stressing the need to continue dialogue to attain this goal.

In its editorial, AL-SIYASAH called on governments of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] to cooperate with Bahrain and help it to overcome the crisis it is experiencing now. The paper adds: "The issue here is not only one of supposed cooperation and implementation of the principles of cooperation; it is rather an issue of stability and security that concerns not only Bahrain alone but all the GCC states."

Saudi Arabia**Delegation Head Wants Unanimity at Berlin Summit**

AU0204202595 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER
RUNDSCHAU in German 1 Apr 95 p 5

[Interview with Nizar Tawfiq, head of the Saudi delegation to the Berlin Climate Summit, by Joachim Wille in Berlin; date not given: "The OPEC States Want Unanimity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Wille] The question of whether decisions at the climate summits are to be made with a three-fourths majority or unanimously is an obstacle at the climate summit. Will the oil producing states give up their demand for a blocking minority?

[Tawfiq] There will certainly be a compromise by the weekend that will satisfy everyone. The matter is complicated: The industrial states want unanimity if the issue of financial aid that is to be provided by them is involved—that is, they do not want to be outvoted in any case. However, then they want only a three-fourths majority for the climate protocol, which sets down the commitments to reduce carbon dioxide [CO2] emissions. The OPEC and a number of developing countries want, however, the protocol also to be adopted unanimously.

[Wille] Could you accept a three-fourths majority in both areas?

[Tawfiq] The OPEC states want unanimity.

[Wille] No movement in sight?

[Tawfiq] There is always movement. However, it would be stupid to predict a result now that might not happen in the end.

[Wille] Will your country or another OPEC state get a seat on the presidium of the climate conference, which would give you more influence on the course of the summit?

[Tawfiq] We suggested this at the preliminary meeting in New York, but it was in vain. We think there should be an additional seat on the presidium for a developing country, whose economy primarily depends on oil revenues. The climate convention cites eight groups of states, seven of which actually belong to the same category: They are affected by the climate changes. The eighth group are the countries that sell fossil fuels. The first seven are all on the presidium, but we are not. This must be changed.

[Wille] Has the summit president offered you a seat?

[Tawfiq] Certainly not to Saudi Arabia. I told Mrs. Merkel quite clearly that my country is not interested in such a seat. Another OPEC country should get it.

[Wille] Which one?

[Tawfiq] Perhaps Nigeria, maybe Venezuela. Any other OPEC state is possible.

[Wille] How much should the industrial countries reduce their CO2 emissions after the year 2000 in order to do something against the greenhouse effect? By 20 percent, as the island states suggest?

[Tawfiq] On principle, we do not have any problems with this high target. However, we should wait until 1996 before we enter into negotiations about a protocol that sets down the new commitments to reduction. The reason: The industrial countries have not even fulfilled their duties to which they committed themselves at the earth summit in Rio. Almost everywhere CO2 emissions are going up instead of going down. In addition, the convention commits them to financial and technological aid to the developing countries; however, there, too, nothing has happened. We say: Let us wait and see whether the commitments are realistic at all.

[Wille] But climate researchers are urging a speedy reduction of CO2. Are the scientific results not sufficient for action?

[Tawfiq] There is much evidence that the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are increasing and that this influences the temperature on Earth. However, the most important question is which influence the global warming has on the climate, and there the scientists' opinions differ.

[Wille] The researchers predict that Saudi Arabia, too, will feel the climate changes.

[Tawfiq] Of course! Our situation will become even worse when these changes occur. Saudi Arabia is a desert state. The climate changes made the deserts spread further. Can you imagine how difficult it is to live in the desert if one does not have enough water? We would also be victims of the greenhouse effect.

[Wille] You have ratified the climate convention even though it is its goal to reduce the consumption of fossil energies.

[Tawfiq] We want to bear our part of responsibility in the international community. However, we also want our voice to be heard when our interests, our welfare, is involved. Just like any other country.

[Wille] Some researchers say that global oil production will remain at a high level despite the intended reduction of CO2. It is primarily intended to use less coal and more CO2-neutral biomatter. Are you relieved?

[Tawfiq] In the developing countries, the demand for energy is rising and the climate convention permits this, because they must develop. Even if consumption in the industrial states goes down, the demand will remain the same in general or even go up. The convention does not give us any economic problems.

[Wille] How long will the oil in your country hold out—50 years, 100 years?

[Tawfiq] I cannot say. I am not in the oil business, I am an environmental expert. It is difficult to remember the statistics. However, Saudi Arabia is very much interested in alternative energies. We spend millions of dollars each year on that.

[Wille] Let us assume that oil sales go down or the stocks decline: Can Saudi Arabia then move on to other economic branches?

[Tawfiq] No. The industrial countries can reduce one branch and increase another one instead, but the money remains the same. In our country this is impossible. We depend almost exclusively on oil.

Yemen

Salih Receives U.S. Official, Discusses Cooperation

JN0304204295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President of the Republic, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, today received Richard Murphy, director of the Middle East program in the U.S. Foreign Affairs Council [title as heard], and his delegation, currently in our country. Issues related to bilateral relations and ways of joint cooperation between our country and the United States were reviewed and international issues and developments of joint concern were discussed.

The president praised the level reached by the U.S.-Yemeni relations, stressing our country's desire to promote these relations toward more advanced levels in order to serve the interests of the two friendly countries.

For his part, Murphy praised our country's democratic experiment based on political pluralism and multiparty system, the freedom of the press, and respect for human rights. He voiced satisfaction with the continuing progress in the Yemen-U.S. relations.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Brigadier 'Abdallah al-Bashiri, secretary general of the presidency; and David Newton, the U.S. ambassador in Sanaa.

Aden Price Rise Protesters Released From Jail

NC0104144195 Paris AFP in English 1323 GMT
1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Aden, Yemen, April 1 (AFP)—Yemeni police have released 52 people arrested three days ago in this southern port city during street protests against price hikes, a security official said Saturday [1 April].

"The last group of 17 people from a total of 52 were released Saturday," said Colonel Hassin al-Radi, deputy security chief in Aden.

The detainees, arrested Wednesday and who included students, were questioned about their involvement in attacks on public and private property, Radi said.

Students at Aden University ended a sit-in protest on Saturday following the release of their peers.

Authorities had also met their demand for the transfer of student Mahmud Mohammad Sayyadi abroad for medical care after he was seriously wounded by police gunfire in Wednesday's clashes, they said.

Protests and riots broke out in Dhamar, 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Sanaa, and Aden on Wednesday after petrol prices doubled from six to 12 riyals (six to 12 U.S. cents on the black market).

Three people were killed in clashes in Aden, police sources said though the toll was not officially confirmed. A police spokesman said eight people were wounded.

Police baton-charged demonstrators and used teargas before firing on them, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, Yemeni police on Saturday broke up a demonstration in Sanaa to protest the petrol price increase which has paralysed transport services in the capital.

Taxi drivers and service cars have rejected a new tariff allowing them a 15 to 20 percent increase, even though petrol prices have gone up 100 percent.

There were no injuries as police broke up the rally of about 500 people.

Budget Deficit, Austerity Measures, Devaluation Announced

NC0304203695 Paris AFP in English 1825 GMT
3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, April 3 (AFP)—The Yemeni government presented to parliament Monday [3 April] a draft budget for 1995 with a projected deficit of 36.14 billion riyals (722.8 million dollars) and including austerity measures.

The government said the budget's priority was "reducing public spending" to improve the country's crisis-hit economy and cutting the deficit, as demanded by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

It was the first time since 1992 that the Yemeni government published a budget. The 1992 budget had a deficit of 16 billion riyals (1.3 billion dollars).

The riyal was devalued at the weekend, with the official rate set at 50 riyals to the dollar, down from 12 riyals, the finance ministry said. The devaluation was not announced but banks and public sector works were informed.

The government has also decided to sweep away all its charge d'affaires posts abroad and to reduce the number of embassies and consulates as well as diplomatic staff.

The 1995 budget forecasts expenditure of 124.1 billion riyals (2.48 billion dollars) and revenue of 88 billion riyals (1.76 billion dollars), it said.

A government austerity drive which saw the arrest of all the country's money-changers last week has triggered a wave of protests.

Security forces shot dead at least three demonstrators in the southern city of Aden on Wednesday during street protests over a doubling of petrol prices, police said.

Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the world, with an external debt running into more than seven billion dollars.

Ramadan Rules Out Early Release of Americans

NC0304154395 Paris AFP in English 1430 GMT
3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, April 3 (AFP)—Iraq's vice president has ruled out the early release of two Americans jailed for illegal entry from Kuwait as they met an Iraqi lawyer on Monday [3 April] to prepare an appeal.

Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan told the British television station WTN that the swift release or amnesty of David Daliberti and William Barloon was out of the question.

"The question of their release or amnesty is not on the agenda because they broke the law in illegally crossing the borders," he said in the interview Sunday which was seen by AFP.

Lawyer Khalid Jarjis spent eight hours with the two men in Abu Gharib jail 30 kilometres (18 miles) south of Baghdad and said he had found several points in their statements "which may influence the course of an appeal."

He said the men sentenced to eight years in jail on March 25 by an Iraqi court 12 days after their arrest were in good health and were being well-treated by the prison staff.

The lawyer added he would need a week to go over the file as well as one or more meetings with the Americans to prepare the case.

Under Iraqi law, those sentenced can lodge an appeal within a month. If the verdict is upheld, the only other option is to plead for a pardon from President Saddam Husayn.

Jarjis, who has previously acted for foreigners sentenced for illegally crossing the border, said the Americans had chosen him out of a list of three names given to them by the US interests section at the Polish embassy.

Diplomatic ties between the United States and Iraq have been broken since the 1991 Gulf War.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz left Baghdad on Monday for New York where he is to take part in talks at the UN Security Council on the embargo slapped on Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Paper: U.S. Delaying Overthrow of Ayatollahs

JN3103075895 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
19 Mar 95 p 3

[Article by Malik Mansur: "Why Is Washington Seeking To Delay the Overthrow of the Iranian Regime?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If the general rule says that it is impossible for summer and winter to meet on one roof, U.S. policies and stands toward the Tehran regime and the current power struggle in Iran are trying hard to

prove that this rule is not correct and that it is possible to make opposites meet on one roof by wagering on a premeditated technical and political act which is based on hypocrisy and maneuvering in different directions for different aims under an equation whose first side is: giving the ayatollahs regime sufficient undeclared political and economic support to enable the Khomeynites to fulfill their immediate needs; and second side is: continuing with the sensational propaganda line about Tehran's role in spreading terrorism, violating human rights, and trying to possess weapons of mass destruction; issues which Washington considers the core of its conflict with the Khomeynite regime.

By this equation, Washington will have tamed the Iranian regime and guaranteed its pursuance of a course which serves the political and economic interests and aims of the United States in the region.

The fact we need to point out here is that the United States understands precisely the nature of the Iranian regime and the enormous crises and dilemmas it is facing at home and abroad. Therefore, it understands its needs, especially its strong desire to remain in power at any cost, even if it has to abandon the rights, interests, and resources of Iran and the destiny and future of its peoples.

Thus, Washington is giving Tehran just enough support to keep the ayatollahs in power for a further period of time and to calm their fears of an overthrow in return for certain political and economic deals, which are mainly of a secret nature and conducted through contact channels which ensure coordination, cooperation, and assignment of roles between Washington and Tehran.

It seems that the Iranian regime is so attuned and addicted to this sort of relationship with Washington that it now knows how to arrange, manage, and conclude deals with Washington and to exploit its well-known maneuvering and deceptive methods in order to reserve for itself a margin of free movement and action to help it fulfill a major part of its special aims, ambitions, and racist expansionist tendencies in the region.

What we have arrived at are not arbitrary conclusions and rules, but major facts which are known to everyone and substantiated by events and clear evidence on the ground. The first chapters began when Washington decided to abandon the shah and his regime and chose Khomeyni and his suspect clique as the alternative which suited its wish and vital interests in the region. The chapters continued with Khomeyni's role in sparking the war against Iraq and maintaining it for eight consecutive years with the joint military, political, and propaganda support and assistance of the United States and Zionism. They were followed by the dirty role which the Iranian regime played in the chapter of treachery and treason and the Khomeynite clique's continuous hostility to Iraq and the Iraqi people which today takes the form of instigating the prolongation of the blockade, organizing infiltration and sabotage operations inside

Iraqi territory, and starting military clashes and provocations. All these fall within the U.S.-Zionist-reactionary plot to break Iraq's brave resistance and confrontation of U.S. hegemony.

In addition, Washington uses the Iranian regime as an instrument for maintaining the factors of tension in the Arab Gulf region and preventing any real and sincere effort to calm down feelings and create opportunities for achieving mutual confidence and security between the countries of the region and resolving the outstanding problems between them by peaceful means and away from foreign interference.

A recent scandal in U.S. hypocritical policy in Iran is the strange coincidence between the propaganda campaign which accuses the ayatollahs of spreading international terrorism, violating human rights, and seeking to possess weapons of mass destruction—mere repetitious talk which Tehran is now accustomed to hearing and ignoring—and the serious, feverish U.S. endeavors to promote its trade and oil relations with the Iranian regime which culminated in signing a huge oil contract earlier this month between the U.S. company Conoco and the Tehran government.

This explains the nature of the relationship between the Tehran ayatollahs and Washington. The Iranian regime's main obsession is to remain in power at any cost, now that its authority has ended, it has lost the bases for its existence in power, its internal balances have collapsed, it has contracted the disease of fatal isolation, and it is overburdened with grave political, economic, and social crises and dilemmas.

The policy of hypocrisy and maneuvering which Washington is pursuing with the ayatollahs regime has been fully exposed, now that it has become certain that the fall of this regime is imminent and the time is ripe, that all internal and external factors are right for carrying out the change and determining the power struggle, and that the national resistance movement in Iran, whose activities and revolutionary institutions are led by the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization is about to pounce on the clique of ayatollahs.

Under the pressure of this reality, and in order for Washington to protect its intertwined interests with the ayatollahs regime in Tehran, influential circles inside the U.S. Administration have acted with unusual speed in order to delay the overthrow of the regime, albeit for a further period of time, by taking several steps and measures which Washington considered sufficient for such an urgent situation.

Within the context of this endeavor, and while Washington was accusing the Iranian regime of sponsoring, organizing, and financing international terrorism, violating human rights, and seeking to possess weapons of mass destruction etc., the U.S. State Department submitted a report on 28 October 1994 to the congressional Foreign Relations Committee directing false suspicions

and accusations against the Iranian national resistance and the legitimate struggle to liberate Iran from the ayatollahs clique and its expansionist, racist, and terrorist line; a struggle which forms the correct basis and beginning for the Iranian peoples controlling their national will and restoring stability and security in the region.

Since the U.S. State Department cannot, in the first place, directly and frankly defend the Khomeynite regime's crimes against humanity and aggressive line and role in spreading and financing organized international state terrorism; and since the U.S. State Department knows in advance that defending the Tehran regime will torpedo whatever is left of its credibility, its infamous report which was under the title: "The Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq," was fully devoted to purposely discrediting the leadership of the national resistance and popular movement in Iran which, today, constitutes the acceptable democratic national alternative which is unanimously supported by the peoples of Iran and whose just and legitimate struggle enjoys a growing strong support by the world public and influential circles in most world nations.

If the U.S. State Department had to act by throwing a lifeline to the ayatollahs regime in Tehran in an attempt to prolong its life for a further period; and since it could not find any means to cover up its endeavor other than fabricating lies and accusations against the Mojahedin-e Khalq, which clearly hurts the national resistance and popular movement in Iran and its just and legitimate struggle in order to liberate Iran from the most atrocious, savage, and unjust regime known to the modern history of mankind and is a blatant and unjustified interference in Iran's internal affairs, what are Washington's motives and aims from trying to delay the process of overthrowing the ayatollahs regime until further notice?

Washington is working along two basic courses and parallel lines: First, it seeks to ensure the U.S. Administration's need for the Iranian role on the regional level and to guarantee the continued validity of the deals and barter which have been agreed on. All this is geared toward serving U.S. strategy in the region. Second, it seeks to interfere in Iran's internal affairs in a manner which affords it the possibility to influence the current power struggle in Iran and provides it with firm guarantees about seeing through the process of the overthrow of the ayatollahs regime so that the change in Iran would be in conformity with and closer to its wish as well as with the standards and terms which Washington tries to impose through hypocrisy, maneuvering, and double-standard policy.

On the basis of this hypocritical and double-standard policy, bridges of contact are being extended with all influential sides and forces in the current power struggle in Iran to afford the U.S. Administration a greater chance for maneuvering and exerting pressure on any side whenever it becomes necessary through the game of

tipping the balance in favor of one side against another or one group against another through a technical, political, and propaganda act which is programmed to achieve certain political and economic advantages and concessions before the U.S. Administration decides on its final options.

At the time when it throws a lifeline to the Iranian regime and tries hard to delay the process of its overthrow, whose internal and external factors and conditions are now right, Washington does not permit the regime to stand far away from the brink of the abyss; in other words, Washington keeps the big stick hovering over the Iranian regime's head in order to prevent it from exploiting any U.S. support beyond the limits of what Washington wants and plans.

But it is definite that the effect and influence of the wager through this hypocritical and double-standard policy will not achieve for the United States any definite advantages or opportunities which will help it surmount the evident big facts on the ground or change their course. We would like here to point out the following two facts:

1. The national resistance in Iran, whose activities and struggle institutions are led by the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization is the democratic national alternative which has polarized the popular movement in Iran. It is the Iranian people's big hope to rid themselves of the hell of the ayatollahs.

2. The factors, circumstances, and conditions for change in Iran are fully ripe and the road to determining the power struggle is open before the forces which possess the capability and power on the ground to carry out the overthrow of the regime and to establish the alternative regime which will meet the national interests of Iran and the independent will of its peoples.

Iran is quickly moving toward a conflagration. Determination of the power struggle is also round the corner. By its action and weight, the national resistance in Iran is considered the undisputed democratic and national alternative. The change can only take place through an Iranian will. As for Washington's wager on the possibility of making summer and winter meet on one roof, it is only a delusion by those who are running after a mirage and failure. Iran is for the Iranians. All the power in it belongs to the National Council of the Iranian Resistance, and the future president of Iran will be Mariam Rajavi.

Saddam Reportedly Replaces Army Chief of Staff
LD0304190495 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation
Press Release in English 1703 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salah al-Din, Iraq (April 3)—According to an IBC correspondent in Baghdad, Saddam Husayn has dismissed the Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Army, Lieutenant-General Iyad al-Rawi. He has been

replaced by Lieutenant-General Sultan Hashim. This follows a month which has seen mass defections of Iraqi soldiers to the opposition.

It is also reported that the commander of the 5th Corps of the Iraqi army, Nasir Saeed al-Nasiri, has been removed from his post after the Corps suffered a number of defeats—in particular, that of the 38th Division—at the hands of forces loyal to the Iraqi National Congress (INC) in northern Iraq. The 5th Corps operates in the Mosul district of Salamiyah.

Saddam Dismisses Officers for 'Collusion' With Kurds

NC0304170195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam Husayn has ordered the dismissal of a number of officers in the fifth corps after the military operations in northern Iraq with the Kurds during which a number of [word indistinct] surrendered to the forces opposed to the ruling regime. Iraqi opposition sources said that the Baghdad ruler accused some military men in the units belonging to his regime of collusion with the forces opposed to the regime in northern Iraq.

Saddam Discusses Leadership at Cabinet Session

JN0304135295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has said that the first step toward a successful leadership in peace or war, in production or services, and in all other cases and circumstances, lies in the leader's ability to enable those working under him to discover themselves, that is, to explore their own potential by proving to them with the mind, resolve, morale, and knowledge of the leader that they are capable of accomplishing their tasks with a high degree of efficiency.

His excellency added: This level of common awareness between the leader and workers cannot be attained unless it is clear that any accomplishment in human life will not be achieved unless man is its means and end. This fact makes the link clear, firm, and justifiable between the means and the end, between the training course and the aim of the course, between scientific and technological knowledge and the aim of its application, between the formulas and methods of work and the aim of work, between the short-term view and the view of the greater objective. Requirements and resources are essential for any accomplishment. However, a leader who demands them readily becomes a mere holder of a post and not a leader in crisis or adversity. A true leader is the one who accomplishes his tasks exceptionally with the fewest requirements and resources, considering the circumstances of a certain phase and other similar situations. Otherwise, why should he be called a leader?

When a leader, whether military or civilian, takes charge of a formation or organizational unit, he should first investigate facts and feel the pulse of morale. If he finds a certain feeling of frustration among the workers and followers, the reason could be that certain work is being performed without any tangible results, that there are some important results that have not been seen or felt by anyone, or that the workers want to do something but the road is blocked for them. It is work that develops capabilities and not the other way round. A high degree of development is achieved if the tasks are reconciled with the highly motivated capabilities of the workers. Praising accomplishments gives workers additional motivation.

His excellency said work in the civilian sector is like fighting in war. A military formation, even if it is made up of highly trained people and veterans, will definitely be defeated if it does not know its combat mission in the battle. To score victory, it should have a good description of the enemy and should be provided with information about its weapons and about the battlefield. It should also be supplied with fighting requirements commensurate with the battle and its objectives, and have the freedom of movement and flexibility of action. Such a formation would then be told: Go and accomplish your mission. It will then be watched by the leadership from a distance.

His excellency said: The one who leads should know these facts. We should be as careful in selecting a civilian leader as we are in selecting a leader for war because the required tasks are not traditional, but big ones, and because our march is not a traditional one.

President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, said this when he presided over the 13th cabinet session. He was commenting on a report on upgrading the efficiency of the departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, which was listed on the agenda.

His excellency spoke about the role played by agricultural research in developing agricultural production and said: In dealing with an agricultural problem or developing a certain production, these departments should present something concrete and tangible to the farmer or peasant because seeing clear results, in addition to what the general agricultural guidance and news media present in this regard, will prompt him to seek change and development.

During its 13th session, the cabinet approved some organizational and economic proposals. These included the completion of irrigation projects, including the al-Najaf-al-Kufah unified water project. It also approved the Education Ministry's proposals on examinations and the holding of expanded educational courses for the preparation of teachers in the governorates with a view to meeting the shortage in elementary school teaching cadres.

Regime Reportedly Arrests Citizens in Karkuk

NC0304164795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Security organs belonging to the ruling regime in Iraq have carried out extensive storming campaigns [words indistinct] of some houses in the Governorate of Karkuk and arrested scores of citizens. People arriving in Baghdad from northern Iraq noted that the accusation of cooperation with the forces opposed to the ruling regime has been leveled against some citizens who were arrested and moved to an unknown destination. These people said that the ruling authorities increased their inspection points on the main road between Baghdad and Karkuk where some regime men are checking the identity cards of travelers.

Turkey Said To Offer Compensation for Damages

NC0304154695 Paris AFP in English 1405 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By Tolle Aram]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Derkare, Iraq, April 3 (AFP)—A Turkish foreign ministry official offered compensation on Monday [3 April] for the proven losses of Kurdish villagers during the Turkish army's incursion into northern Iraq.

Mufit Ozdes visited the army's main camp in northern Iraq, in Derkare village, to hear complaints from villagers.

"I found that the complaints I got so far were exaggerated. The Turkish army is very disciplined. Looting and harassment happened only incidentally," he told AFP.

Together with five other employees of the foreign and interior ministries, he travelled to Derkare village from the border town of Zakho, 10 kilometres (six miles) to the west.

Dozens of army trucks and more than 10 tanks and canons were deployed at the entrance and around the village. Soldiers had also set up several tents.

Since the Turkish incursion launched on March 20 in pursuit of Turkish Kurdish separatist guerrillas, many complaints have come from the villagers of Derkare.

Under pounding rain, Ozdes visited a small house where he sat down with 10 Iraqi Kurds to discuss the villagers' problems.

"Hundreds of Turkish soldiers have occupied our schools, taken all our weapons, spoilt our fields," said Serresi Zakho, representative of a regional Kurdish administration on behalf of the villagers.

"Soldiers have to leave the schools and when I know the name of the owners of the damaged fields and the exact extent of the damage, they will be compensated," promised the foreign ministry official.

"Of course I'm not authorized to give back things to people. If they have evidence, they will be compensated. But I only note down and tell the military. They are the ones who decide," he explained.

"Members of the KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) will get their weapons back," added Ozdes, referring to the Iraqi Kurdish party which controls the border region.

The Turkish commission noted down all the complaints from villagers but they were warned that it would be "impossible to prove" the theft of money, gold and other such belongings.

Ozdes was to return to Ankara on Tuesday at the end of a week-long mission in northern Iraq and be replaced by another official.

A foreign aid worker in Zakho, charged that the investigation by Ozdes was a "farce," designed to ease criticism of the Turkish operation against the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

"He got so many complaints but he simply denied them all," the aid worker said, asking not to be named.

Pro-Baghdad Kurdistan Party Denounces Turkey
*JN0104101195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT
1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—A responsible source for the [pro-Baghdad] Kurdistan Democratic Party has denounced the deep penetration by Turkish Government troops into Iraq and its pretext of pursuing elements of the Kurdistan Workers Party.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-'IRAQ published today, the source said the Turkish violation of the Iraqi border gives a pretext for the U.S. presence in the region and is a violation of all international laws, the UN Charter, and principles of good-neighborliness.

The spokesman said that the Turkish military intervention is regarded as an occupation of vast areas of Iraqi territory, taking advantage of the absence of the Iraqi central authority from the autonomous region, given the extraordinary circumstances in the region created by U.S. imperialism and its allies in violation of the sanctity of Iraq's national sovereignty.

On behalf of the Kurdish masses in the Kurdistan autonomous region, the party denounced the Turkish forces violation of Iraqi sovereignty and asked the Turkish Government to withdraw its forces from Iraqi territory.

The party appealed to the United Nations, the UN Security Council, and the Arab League to play their role as dictated by international norms and charters, bring pressure to bear on the Turkish Government to withdraw its military forces from the region, and protect human rights in the Kurdistan autonomous region, which is now being exposed to a flagrant violation.

Talabani, Kurdish Parties' Envoys View Situation
*NC0304170095 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of
Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), yesterday received the following representatives of the Kurdish parties: Yasin 'Ali, representative of the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan; 'Abd-al- Khaliq Zanjanah, representative of the Kurdistan Workers Party; Unadah [word indistinct], representative of the Democratic Movement; Mala Hasan, representative of the Kurdish Communist Party; and [words indistinct].

The conferees discussed a number of recommendations and proposals on the current situation [words indistinct].

Brother Talabani then explained the PUK view of the opinions and proposals made by the representatives of the Kurdish parties. He stressed that the PUK backs all the peaceful efforts to end the fighting in Kurdistan and normalize the situation in it. He also underlined the PUK's constant readiness to cooperate with all the struggling Kurdish parties.

The meeting focused mainly on the following:

1. The PUK stand vis-a-vis the Iranian Kurdistan Democratic Party and how to manage the latter's affairs in a way compatible with the higher interests of Iraq's Kurdish people.
2. The revelation of the scandal involving the secret intelligence activities of Jawhar Namiq Salim which he planned using the cover of his speakership of the Kurdish parliament in order to destroy the Kurdistan region's capital and kill its innocent people.
3. The Kurdistan Democratic Party's vile attack on the national forces which were firmly confronting the Iraqi regime's attacking forces.
4. The PUK stand on dealing with the Kurdish infighting and normalizing the situation in Kurdistan.
5. The PUK stand on the Turkish invasion of the Kurdistan region territories.

Rabin Comments in Knesset on Gaza Explosion

TA0304164195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says following yesterday's explosion in the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] bomb sanctuary in Gaza it is reasonable to believe that Hamas will try to carry out terror attacks in Israel in order to restore its prestige. The premier stressed that Israel's security services are on constant alert to prevent attacks.

Speaking at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Rabin said that though accurate information is lacking on who was killed in the blast, it is possible that one of the six was an aide of Yahya 'Ayyash, also known as the Engineer. 'Ayyash is responsible for several terror attacks against Israel. The premier denied any Israeli involvement in yesterday's explosions and said the terrorists brought about their own fate:

[Begin Rabin recording] Israel was not involved whatsoever. It was an accident when the heads of the Hamas terrorist murderous people prepared high explosives with the purpose to carry out either suicidal or another mode of terrorism against Israelis. They brought upon themselves, by their desire to carry out these murderous terror activities against Israelis, their fate.

We all the time are fully aware about the decision of the Hamas and the Islamic Jihad among the Palestinians to continue their terror activities. In '94, they [word indistinct] by suicidal terror missions into Israel against the centers of the population of Israel.

We took all the measures to prevent any additional success. It puts a burden on the transfer of vegetables and other goods from Gaza to Israel, from Israel to Gaza, but our main criteria is the security of the Israelis, even if it carries with it a burden to economic ties and the reduction of the number of Palestinians that are allowed to come from the territories and to work in Israel. [end recording] [passage omitted]

In his appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Prime Minister Rabin said U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross is expected here Thursday. Rabin said the talks are continuing with Syria on security arrangements, but that a magic formula, as he put it, has yet to be found. The prime minister said there is no American pressure on Israel in the talks with Syria.

Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motion on Security

TA0304163995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset rejected 58 to 46 the no-confidence motions in the government presented by the opposition on the deterioration of the security situation. SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and United

Torah Jewry voted with the opposition. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the prime minister said after the vote that the no-confidence motions by this Knesset have completely exhausted themselves. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who responded for the government, said it would not shorten its term and would progress toward peace.

Labor Secretary: 'Unofficial Contacts With Hamas'

TA0304164295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Labor Party Secretary General Nisim Zvili says Israel is holding unofficial contacts with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] political leaders in an effort, he says, to get them to participate in elections in the territories. Speaking to reporters in France, Zvili said: If Hamas is to be moderated somewhat, it must be drawn into the process.

He said the political leaders of Hamas were not always responsible for the actions of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, its military wing, and this would be a way to isolate the militants.

Rabin on Travel Arrangements for Palestinian VIP's

TA0204114295 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 2 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has permitted 30 Palestinian Authority [PA] members to move freely from Gaza to Jericho accompanied by a chauffeur and a bodyguard, while carrying a gun obtained with an Israeli weapon license issued by the legitimate Israeli authority.

This stands in violation of the agreement with the PLO, which stipulates that Palestinians moving in the "safe passage" will be unarmed and that will be accompanied by a Border Police vehicle throughout the safe passage.

The above information was gleaned from Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's written reply to a query submitted by Knesset Member Hanan Porat. The prime minister reveals in his reply that, to date, 30 PA officials holding portfolios, as well as Palestinian police and security chiefs, have been issued VIP-A [preceding acronym in English] certificates, in accordance with a special arrangement with the PA.

Our correspondent notes that such travel by these people constitutes a security risk because this arrangement with the PA stipulates that any VIP-A certificate carrier may have a chauffeur, one bodyguard, his parents, and/or wife, and/or children in his car. The VIP certificate carrier and the bodyguard will be able to carry a gun. Since the car will not be searched, these Palestinian

VIP's will be able to smuggle fugitives from the autonomy to Israel and vice versa without being subject to any inspection.

In practice, this agreement is liable to create channels through which weapons and terrorists will be smuggled, as 'Arafat himself did on the day he first entered the Strip. It will be remembered that on that day, 'Arafat smuggled in four terrorists in his car. They were expelled from Gaza later, under pressure from the Israeli Government.

The prime minister's reply further reveals that when a Palestinian VIP's vehicle reaches a roadblock, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers will be permitted to inspect the documents and check the identity of the passengers. The reply does not mention whether the soldiers will be also able to inspect the luggage in the car.

The prime minister's reply further says that under the arrangement with the PA, any VIP-A certificate carrier must inform the IDF authorities 24 hours in advance of his departure for Israel.

Rabin Approves Permits for Palestinian Workers

TA0104182495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel
1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rabin this evening approved the issuance of 2,000 more work permits to workers from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen reports the licenses will be given to workers from the construction and industrial sectors who are married and 30-years-old or over. This will bring the total number of workers from the territories who are permitted to work in Israel to approximately 27,000.

Knesset Defers Bill on Tax Fund Transfers to PA

TA0404094995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in
English 4 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] A bill to enable tax money to be transferred to the Palestinian Authority [PA] has been deferred until after the Pesach recess, after Tzomet and the National Religious Party asked that the vote be turned into a no-confidence motion.

The move was an embarrassment for the government, which had wanted to ram the bill through all three readings this week to ease the PA's poor financial situation. Yesterday was supposed to have been the first reading.

However, Knesset regulations forbid no-confidence votes to take place during a recess, and this is the last week of the winter session. Thus, the bill will not pass its first reading until May. [passage omitted]

The bill contains a collection of amendments needed to enable the PA to assume authority in the fields of health, welfare, education, and tourism throughout Judaea and Samaria. The most important of these authorizes the government to transfer 75 percent of the income taxes collected from Palestinians working in Israel to the PA—something Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir has ruled cannot be done until the law is passed. The bill also enables the transfer of value-added tax monies to the PA. [passage omitted]

Rabin: Demand for Cut in Syrian Army Dropped

TA0404094795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in
English 4 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by David Makovsky and news agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israel is no longer demanding that Syria cut its standing army as part of a peace agreement, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

He also indicated that Israeli and Syrian negotiators in Washington are deadlocked on the principles that would underlie security arrangements between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Regarding the current talks between Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and Walid al-Mu'allim, Rabin said the two sides have not resolved the impasse over Syria's insistence that the basis for security arrangements between the two countries be overall "equality."

Sources say Syria no longer insists on "symmetry," realizing that Israel may have special needs when it comes to the establishment of limited forces zones. However, if Israel is to receive special consideration in one sphere, Damascus wants an advantage in another, and therefore insists upon aggregate equality. Israel, however, does not accept this, and prefers the vague notion of "mutual" security arrangements.

On a related point, Rabin said Syria is indispensable in any effort to disarm Hizballah.

Sharon Accuses Rabin of Exploiting Victims

TA0204083095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800
GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon says that the prime minister is making cynical use of the victims in the north to justify the concessions made in the negotiations with Syria. MK Sharon said that Mr. Rabin's remarks that the terror problem can be solved only through a political settlement with Syria invite more terrorist attacks aimed at extorting additional concessions from Israel. According to MK Sharon, anyone who signs an agreement with terrorists cannot complain about its violation.

Likud Backs Rabin Move Against 'Terror'*TA0204103995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Apr 95 p 9*

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the Likud, has voiced support for the government's action against the Hizballah terror. Netanyahu said political pressure should be put on Syria, the de facto ruler in Lebanon, to achieve a cessation of terrorist activities. Netanyahu expressed profound appreciation for the conduct of residents of northern Israel and sent his condolences to the bereaved families.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan said: "The katyushas that fell in the Galilee prove that the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] hands are tied by the political echelons, who prohibit any offensive action against the terrorists. Tzomet warns for the thousandth time that a war is being waged against us in the north, and all this time, we are preoccupied only with self-defense."

The NRP [National Religious Party] called on the government "to stop all dialogue with the Syrians until the agreements on security issues are clarified and calm in northern Israel is guaranteed."

Editorial Contends Syria in No-Lose Situation*TA0204081695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Apr 95 p 6*

[Editorial: "The Proxy's Katyushas"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was clearly concerned on Friday that the Hizballah shelling of the Galilee would reflect on Syria's reliability in adhering to agreements. He hastened to assure journalists that there is no signed contract with Damascus, only an understanding. And he asserted that before Israel decides to act, it would have to determine if the Hizballah really meant it when it announced that the agreement not to shell Israeli towns is dead.

The implications of his remarks, reinforced by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres's conciliatory words, is that the incident will be virtually overlooked if Syria announces that the agreement is still in force. Such violations, though not on such a big scale, have occurred before, and Israel has consistently chosen to avoid escalation.

In fact, it was in response to what the Hizballah and the Syrians consider an Israeli escalation that the Katyushas were fired. The Hizballah's official explanation for the shelling was that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the South Lebanese Army had violated the agreement first by bombing civilians in Lebanon.

But the Hizballah is aware that Israel does not hit civilian targets deliberately, and it is doubtful that it would have launched a massive shelling to retaliate for an accidental Israeli hit at Lebanese civilians. What

really troubled the organization was the killing of its regional commander by an IDF helicopter. As Chief of the General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shahaq put it, we know by their response that this hurt them.

That Israel has the right to pursue and kill Hizballah commanders is not in question, nor is there doubt that such action does not violate the post-"Operation Accountability" agreement. It is also obvious that Israel "had to respond"—as Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said on Friday—to the sharp escalation of Hizballah activity in past weeks. But now there is a possibility that an Israeli counter-blow will truly affect Lebanese civilians. "The Hizballah war cannot be allowed to be waged on the backs of Galilee civilians without the other side feeling it too," said O/C [Officer Commanding] Northern Command Maj.-Gen. 'Amiram Levin, on his visit to the area.

Israelis can be forgiven for wondering if this series of escalations in the war against Hizballah is the most effective way to address the problem. By now, government officials and military leaders no longer deny that Syria is behind the attacks. Shahaq referred to the "whole array of forces" behind Hizballah. Health Minister Efrayim Sneh asserted that the Syrians will be held responsible for the attacks. Rabin himself made clear who he thought was behind it. Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich said on Friday, "Syria will be tested for its ability to keep agreements in Lebanon, too."

(If there is any disagreement among experts about Syria's role it is only over the degree of Syrian army involvement on the operational level. There is no argument about the fact that the Hizballah launches attacks only with a green light from Damascus. Nor is there any doubt that its gunmen train under Syrian supervision, that it receives arms both from Iran through Damascus airport and directly from the Syrian army, and that its political arm functions in coordination with Syria. Whenever Syria wishes it to stop shooting, it does. Clearly, Syrian dictator Hafiz al-Asad can stop Hizballah activity any time he wishes.)

There is also general agreement on the reason al-Asad orders the Hizballah to escalate its operations against Israel. Like all dictators, he believes that negotiations with a democracy can be helped by bloodshed. He is counting on Israeli casualties to create internal pressures on the government to accelerate the talks and to reach an agreement as quickly as possible, even if it means yielding to Syrian terms.

Rabin's repeated pledge "to continue negotiations as if there is no terrorism and fight terrorism as if there are no talks," and the government's insistence on interpreting every Syrian move as "progress" have put al-Asad in a no-lose position. If the mounting Israeli casualties soften Jerusalem, he can only gain in the negotiations. If Israel retaliates in force, he will fight to the last Hizballah gunman and Lebanese civilian. Either way, he is assured that the talks will continue.

Conversely, Israel has maneuvered itself into a no-win situation. Having been committed to the talks regardless of what al-Asad does, it has no leverage over Syria. It will not take military action against Syrian targets, and escalating the war against Syria's Hizbullah proxies can only raise the number of Israeli casualties. While the apprehension or liquidation of Hizbullah leaders may give the nation a momentary feeling of pride and satisfaction, such tactics do little to deter Hizbullah. And appealing to the US to warn the Syrians is little more than a humiliating exercise in futility.

What Israel has never tried to do is what every other nation would do under similar circumstances: suspend the talks until all terrorist action in Lebanon ceases, or at least refuse to discuss any issue with the Syrians except the cessation of hostilities in Lebanon.

The trouble is that the government is so anxious to reach an agreement with al-Asad before the end of the year that it is unlikely to risk suspending the talks. But if the history of dictatorships is any guide, it is precisely this Israeli anxiousness which encourages Syrian intransigence and Hizbullah terrorism.

Settlers To Kill in Self-Defense If IDF Withdraws

TA0404095195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Binyamin Regional Council plenum, representing some 31 settlements in the region, adopted a resolution late Sunday night [2 April] saying that if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraws from the region, settlers will be called upon to act on the principle that "killing in self-defense is permissible."

Council head Pinhas Wallerstein said a special session of the plenum was called as a result of rumors that the IDF is considering a withdrawal from Ramallah in the near future.

The adopted resolution read, "If God forbid the IDF withdraw from the roads and leaves us under armed forces that are not subject to Israeli law or in conjunction with these forces, from the standpoint of saving an endangered life we will be forced to direct the residents to honor the rule, 'If anyone comes to kill you, kill them first.'"

Wallerstein would not spell out what this means, saying "I don't want to end up in jail." He said only that any violence would not be aimed at the IDF, which he said is doing everything in its power to secure the Jewish residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran attended the meeting, but only after the plenum passed its resolution. Wallerstein stressed that the settler's anger is not directed at the IDF, but rather at the political echelon that he says is willing to "let us be killed."

Wallerstein said that if the IDF withdraws, the Palestinian Police taking its place will undoubtedly want to kill the settlers. In such a scenario, he said, the Jewish residents in the area are entitled to defend themselves.

Wallerstein said the resolution was carefully worded to read that these directives will be given only if the IDF withdraws from the region and does not leave any bypass roads under exclusive IDF control to the settlements. But, he said, at the rate the bypass roads in the region are being constructed, they will not be ready for use for another two years.

Savir Meets Visiting SRV Deputy Foreign Minister

TA0204161395 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1400 GMT 2 Apr 95

[Statement issued by the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem on 2 April]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir met on Friday, 31.3.95, with Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co—the most senior Vietnamese official to visit Israel since relations were established between the two countries.

Savir said that, "in the era of peace, the main element in Israel's foreign relations is promoting economic ties."

The Vietnamese minister, who came to take part in the international conference of Foreign Ministry heads, said that Vietnam is considering the establishment of an embassy in Israel given the expansion of economic ties and the development of bilateral relations; currently, Vietnam is represented in Israel through its Cairo embassy.

The two men agreed that economic ties should be intensified through exchanging delegations of industrialists.

Long-Term Water Desalination Plans Detailed

TA3103170895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Mar 95 p C2

[Report by 'Amiram Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel will start desalinating drinking water in five years. The first desalination plant will be built in northern Israel and the Haifa District, and they will desalinate water (from 500 mg chlorine per liter up).

The first installations will desalinate up to 20 million cubic meters per year. In the year 2000, 50 million cubic meters will be desalinated, according to plan. The desalinated water will cost 30 to 35 cent a cubic meter, similar to the cost of water production by the Mekorot Company.

The total potential saline water that can be desalinated is approximately 100-120 million cubic meters a year, and the investment in the desalination of one cubic meter will be \$3 to \$5. After the entire potential for the

desalination of water is exhausted during the first decade of the next century, Israel will begin desalinating sea water. The anticipated cost of sea water desalination will be around 80 cents to 1 dollar cents per cubic meter.

Water Commissioner Gid'on Tzur, who revealed the plans and the data, said Israel will need to desalinate 150 million cubic meters a year in the year 2010, 390 million cubic meters a year in 2020, and about 900 million cubic meters a year in 2040. Tzur further said that he is afraid the quality of fresh water will continue deteriorating, and that the Water Commission is making preparations to start filtering fresh water for drinking.

As for the implementation of the water of agreement with Jordan, which is part of the peace agreement, Tzur believed that in May or June Israel will begin to funnel the annual quantity of 20 million cubic meters it undertook to make available to Jordan in the first stage. This

water will be siphoned from the Bet Zera' reservoir into the 'Abdallah canal and used to irrigate the Jordanian side of the Jordan Valley. There is as yet no agreement on the water rates to be paid by the Jordanians.

According to Tzur, this is by way of compensation for the water Israel pumps from al-Yarmuk in excess of the quota previously agreed on with Jordan. He further said that in the next stage, Jordan will receive 10 million cubic meters a year from the saline springs in northern Lake Tiberias, after desalination. The Jordanians will pay for the desalination, but not for the investment.

Tzur added that an additional dam that will be built in Jordan in cooperation with Israel will increase the quantity of water drawn from the al-Yarmuk by 33 million cubic meters in winter and by 12 million cubic meters in summer. Jordan will receive 20 million cubic meters of this water in the summer.

Al-Kabariti on Peace Process, NPT Dispute

TA3103181695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
2 Apr 95 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by Hillel Kuttler; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Kuttler] The big issue during King Husayn's visit here this week was the \$275-million allocation for Jordanian debt relief, which Congress has not yet signed off on. How do you view progress toward its approval?

[Al-Kabariti] I'm very satisfied with the way it's being handled right now. We had the impression that we were caught in the middle of a partisan feud between the Republicans and the Democrats, and our debt-relief program was about to be the victim of this dispute.

However, I think things have been sorted out with the Congress and the administration, and (Tuesday) we were given the impression that the debt relief will be done in a way that will be very satisfactory for both (sides), Jordan and the Congress.... But the full amount will be granted.

[Kuttler] Has Congress not been forthcoming on President Clinton's pledge to King Husayn to wipe out the debt, or was it a misunderstanding between the two branches?

[Al-Kabariti] This is exactly the word that they use, that there has been some kind of misunderstanding between Congress and the administration. And (on Capital Hill) they denied the accusations that were (made) against, them that they were insensitive to Jordanian needs and to the significance and importance of debt relief to Jordan.

[Kuttler] How important an issue is this to Jordan?

[Al-Kabariti] Symbolically, the administration, being a partner in peacemaking, should really deliver on these promises or understandings for the peace process to continue, because we feel Jordan could be an example, a model that could induce others or could in fact make it hard for them to take the risks, or if I may be picky in my words, take the leap to make peace.

[Kuttler] Are you referring to the benefits Syria may be seeking?

[Al-Kabariti] I'm not talking only materially. I'm talking about the commitment of the international community of showing the interest not only of signing the treaties and letting go but also in keeping the peace and building it to have really something to endure.

[Kuttler] King Husayn stressed the need to bring home the benefits of peace to the "person in the street." Has the average Jordanian enjoyed the benefits yet?

[Al-Kabariti] Definitely not yet. There are high expectations, high hopes, as you may call it, (for) the fruits of

peace. For the Jordanian public, it was taken for granted that once the government signed the peace treaty with the Israelis, things would be much better and would reflect positively for their well-being.

As time passes, they feel nothing has materialized. Talking about only debt relief and mega-projects, something like the Jordan Rift Valley projects, doesn't really relate to their well-being and their expectations.

The questions are pending as far as how much peace will contribute to alleviating the daily pressures, the daily job opportunities, lowering the poverty levels in Jordan and improving the standard of living.... We need to know that the international community is really forthcoming....

[Kuttler] How do you evaluate Israeli-Jordanian relations in the five months since the treaty was signed?

[Al-Kabariti] Again, we will have to differentiate and distinguish between the official commitment and the popular feeling toward that peace treaty. Officially, on the government side, definitely we were fully committed and we are negotiating in good faith and in earnest to implement fully all the agreements that came with the treaty.

Now if we are to talk about the general mood, the general feeling toward the peace treaty, I guess there is that large chunk of public opinion who supported the peace treaty on the basis of wait and see. And this portion of the population are the people who are now leaning toward taking away their support. The support for the peace treaty is slipping away from among this group of people because they think it did not really bring with it the expectations and the dividends they were expecting.

[Kuttler] How much of a concern is that to you?

[Al-Kabariti] I'm very much concerned, because in the final analysis, for peace to be durable and sustained, the popular support is very much needed.

[Kuttler] Next month the international community will meet in New York about extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. What is Jordan's position on the extension?

[Al-Kabariti] We are the country that has the longest border with Israel, and your nuclear facilities—if I may use the expression, the most notorious one, in Dimona—is very close, it's only 20 miles (32 km.) away from a Jordanian city, al-Tafilah. Especially when you talk about a quote-unquote Chernobyl-like incident, any kind of leakage or proliferation will definitely affect us environmentally and threaten the well-being and the health of the area.

So it's been our policy to demand that the Israeli nuclear facility should be under close international inspection, maybe by the International Atomic Energy Agency. And that's why we are very much for the NPT agreement, very much for its objectives.

[Kuttler] Does that mean that you have decided that you will sign the extension?

[Al-Kabariti] We haven't decided yet, to tell you the truth. We've been discussing this issue with the Arab countries and the nonaligned countries.

[Kuttler] Last week's Arab League resolution in Cairo seemed to leave some room for a resolution.

[Al-Kabariti] Room was there.... (The conflict) somehow brought into the picture the idea of Israel as wanting detente rather than peace in the area—detente in the sense of being engaged diplomatically with all the Arab countries, backed by an overwhelming force and exercising supremacy and exercising lordship rather than partnership.

[Kuttler] What about Egypt's role in pressing the issue?

[Al-Kabariti] I find the Egyptian position very accommodating and forthcoming.... They are for the objectives of the treaty, but they want to know, also, how and when Israel could also be part of that treaty to give the sense that the area will not come under any Israeli nuclear umbrella that we all reject.

[Kuttler] How much of a problem for Jordan has the Syrian opposition to the treaty with Israel been?

[Al-Kabariti] It is a problem in the sense that we in Jordan would like to maintain a special and privileged relationship with Syria....

(But) we felt immediately after the Oslo agreement that if we are to wait any longer, then the best interest of Jordan would not really be served.... I think that the Syrians are committed to peace. Once the Israelis make it clear that they are willing to make peace with Syria based on all the land for all the peace, I think the Syrians will go along.

[Kuttler] How do Egyptian-Jordanian relations stand after Cairo complained it was bypassed in your agreement with Israel?

[Al-Kabariti] Our relationship with Egypt is very strong, and cooperation and coordination are at a very good level. We feel that the Egyptian role in the area and in the furthering of the cause of peace has been earned by the Egyptians by the fact that they are the largest country, they were the first to sign a peace treaty with Israel and they have always been a moderating influence in the area in the last 20 years or so.

[Kuttler] What about your relations with Saudi Arabia, which took a hit since Jordan supported Iraq in the Gulf War?

[Al-Kabariti] There's not much that could be said right now. It's normal. Our ambassador has taken up his post in Riyadh. We are very keen to improve the relations and will not spare any effort to better the relationship with the Saudis.

[Kuttler] Shim'on Peres has stated that Israel would consider joining the NPT only after it reaches a comprehensive peace that includes Iran, Iraq and Libya.

[Al-Kabariti] I have discussed this with Mr. Peres when he brought up the subject. You cannot manufacture a monster for you to be able to have a role in the area. And if we are to keep pumping up the Iranian threat out of proportion, then we will be playing with fire. In the final analysis, the Iranian nuclear facilities are under international inspection, and they are a member of the treaty.

Maybe that could be a good reason for the Israelis to join, to allay the fears of the people of the area—and if they want to cheat, this is up to them to do it if they feel that the Iranians are cheating.

[Kuttler] Israel maintains that is exactly the flaw in the NPT, because Iran is a signatory yet can acquire nuclear components legally.

[Al-Kabariti] I personally think also that the Israelis are cheating when they say 'We will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into the area'—which means they do have the capability. I feel that apparently the Israelis do have it and do intend to use it as a deterrent in the area and use it also as a way to exercise their supremacy....

We are very much for good neighborly relations with the Israelis, we are very much for having them as partners for the development of the area. And again, it seems to me whenever the Israelis talk about peace, they talk about Israeli peace, and when we talk about peace, we talk about comprehensive, just, durable peace.

[Kuttler] What is your vision of a Middle East at peace?

[Al-Kabariti] This perception of seeing Israel as greedy, that they want everything and they don't want to give anything, should be addressed in a way that the people of the area—and I'm not talking about the Arab side in general—should feel that the Israelis do really have an interest to live in the area as part of the area, not as a threatened group of people who will have to maintain some kind of super capability for them to be able to exercise supremacy over the Arab countries.

Al-Kabariti Meets Egyptian Counterpart in U.S.

JN0304110195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Washington today. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the results of recent Jordanian-Egyptian contacts and coordination in the two countries' stands on joint Arab action and the peace process, which is witnessing relatively positive developments these days. Mr. al-Kabariti also met with the Syrian ambassador [in Washington] and supported Syria's stand on restoring Syrian territories to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Editorial Condemns Explosion in Gaza

JN0404091595 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 4 Apr 95
p 19

[Editorial: "Palestinian Infighting Is Condemned"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The consequences of the regrettable explosion in the Gaza Strip are no less serious than the explosion itself, which raised all unpleasant possibilities in the Gaza Strip.

Frank talk starts by reminding all concerned parties of two basic facts. The first serves the interest of outside parties, led by Israel, in terms of igniting a Palestinian civil war whose outcome can be known only to God. The second is that Gaza, which is under the Palestinian Authority's control, is still suffering from the difficult living conditions it faced throughout the years of occupation.

Moreover, frank talk requires us to caution concerned parties in the Palestinian arena that Israel and others in Palestine are hoping for a civil war that will be ignited by Palestinian hands. The destructive results of this war will, first of all, affect the Palestinian people, who have already tasted all kinds of killing, oppression, imprisonment, and pursuit for many years at the hands of the occupation authorities.

Accordingly, any additional regrettable repercussions of the Gaza explosion will, first and foremost, be blamed on the Palestinian parties causing them, regardless of the wishes and schemes of external parties.

The entire international community is responsible for the continuation of the deteriorating living conditions in Gaza, and the Palestinians assume a special responsibility represented by the need to expedite the entrenchment of institutions and the contribution of all to establishing security and stability and regulating living affairs so donors will have no excuse to delay the extension of the aid on which decisions have been based.

The Palestinian people, who accepted a peaceful solution to their national cause and offered more sacrifices than any other people in order to restore their usurped rights, will certainly not agree to go from the hell of one suffering to another, under any slogan or in a competition for a position or support of a certain opinion.

The territories from which the occupation has withdrawn should be a model of security and stability and an example for innovation and production. They should not be a model for infighting that is more severe than what the people have endured throughout the long years of tough occupation.

We, the Palestinian people, and the concerned sons of our nation, are closely watching the tense current situation in Gaza. We hope and expect all parties in Gaza to follow their conscience and shoulder their responsibility toward the Palestinian people, who have suffered more than any other people in the world since the ill-omened Balfour Declaration.

Israel Urged To Learn Lesson From Gaza Explosion

JN0404114095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
4 Apr 95 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Lessons From the Gaza Explosion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The terrible explosion in Gaza the day before yesterday and the casualties that resulted, including civilians, stand as bloody witnesses to the prevailing fragile situation and the dangers that could face the peace process if this process is not completed, and if these dangers are not contained as soon as possible.

A quick glance at this incident is enough for us to see how deep and intense violence is in the Gaza Strip, where Israel continues to impose an economic siege. Israel also continues to isolate the Gaza Strip from the West Bank and ban its workers from going to their jobs. These factors are more horrifying than the amount of explosives seized following the terrible explosion.

A close study of the repercussions of the explosion, and the tension it brought to the Gaza Strip, not to mention the concomitant threats, accusations, and mobilization attempts are more than enough to make us realize that the continuation of the current situation will undermine what the peace process has achieved, particularly on the Palestinian track.

Moreover, a scrutinizing assessment shows Israel bears much responsibility for all aspects of the current peace process. This process faces obstructions, hesitation, and skepticism, not to mention many other practices that increase despair, unemployment, and poverty in this miserable strip, which has become a fertile ground for the violence Israel has been complaining about from the start.

In light of all this, we hope the repercussions of the Gaza explosion will be overcome as soon as possible and that lessons will be learned from this painful incident. At the same time, we hope the Israeli Government will learn appropriate lessons from what this explosion has revealed and desist from its policy of prevarication and open the road to completing the current peace process.

Defense Minister Visits Syrian Troops in Lebanon*JN0304203795 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon directives from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, this morning visited one of our combat units in Lebanon. Lt. Gen. Talas, accompanied by Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan, assistant chief of staff, was received at the unit's command by the major general commander of the Arab Syrian Forces in Lebanon, the major general commander of the unit, a number of the unit's senior officers, and a crowd of the unit's fighters.

Lt. Gen. Talas gave a speech at the beginning of which he conveyed the greetings of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. He also conveyed the president's wishes of success to his brothers the fighters in Lebanon. He also wished them success in fulfilling their pan-Arab tasks that boost the ideological role of the Syrian Arab Army, enhance the Arab identity of Lebanon and the unity of the Lebanese land and people, and bolster fraternal ties between the peoples of the sisterly countries: Syria and Lebanon.

Lt. Gen. Talas then talked about the current status of the peace process and Israel's intransigent stand and maneuvers to evade the requirements of peace through its repressive methods and practices, especially against the brothers in southern Lebanon, and through the military escalation it always fabricates to affect Lebanon's stand on the issues being raised and drag it into submission.

He said: We in Syria, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, want peace. However, we will not bargain over any of our rights. We will always adhere to the constants of a just and comprehensive solution.

Concluding, the lieutenant general urged the unit's fighters to remain alert and always prepared to deny the enemies the chance to penetrate our steadfastness. He also urged them to embody the eternal slogan: Martyrdom or victory.

Then, the lieutenant general departed the unit's command after he was accorded a warm sendoff.

New UNIFIL Commander Arrives, Visits South*NC0204172995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] commander general, Polish General (Sandislaw Vosinak), arrived in Beirut last night from his country to assume his duties in southern Lebanon as commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. He traveled today to the al-Naqrurah region, where he was received by the political adviser and the official spokesman for UNIFIL, Timor Goksel, and ranking UNIFIL officers.

The new leader said he was impressed with the beautiful scenery he saw while flying to his new post this morning. He said he hoped the international resolutions on Lebanon, including Resolution 425, will be implemented during his tour of duty in southern Lebanon.

Reportage on Fighting in Southern Region**Israeli Shelling, Naval Siege***NC0304170495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Jabal al-Rafi', al-Wazzani woods, and al-Wadi al-Akhdar came under Israeli shelling this afternoon from the occupation posts in al-Tayyibah inside the occupied territories.

The occupation forces started their attacks very early in the morning on the outskirts of Majdal Silm, the heights of Jumayjimah and Kafr Rumman, and the outskirts of Habbush which prompted the al-Sabah Secondary School for Girls to close.

At the same time, enemy warships cruised off the southern coasts today imposing a naval siege on the fishermen's boats in al-Sarafand and Tyre.

In return, the Islamic Resistance noticed this afternoon some concentrations of the Israeli enemy at the Bra'shit post. The fire support unit targeted these concentrations accurately and heavily, causing direct damage among their ranks.

Israeli Shelling, Amal Actions*NC0404060795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Tyre has supplied us with the following security report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The outskirts of Yatar, Haris, and 'Ayta al-Jabal were subjected to 150- and 120-mm artillery bombardment from the enemy positions in Haddathah and Jabal Humayyid

shortly after midnight last night. Israeli helicopters overflew the western and central sectors, dropping flares over the areas. The enemy forces raked the outskirts of Bra'shit, Shaqra, Qabrikha, and Tulin early today.

An Amal Movement resistance group launched a major offensive against the enemy positions in Rshaf at 2330 yesterday. The Amal group used machine guns and rockets in the attack. The group destroyed the enemy's property and fortifications. The Amal Movement vowed to continue the resistance operations until south Lebanon is liberated and the Israeli troops are fully withdrawn.

The Israeli forces have tightened their siege on the ports of Tyre and Sarafand. An Israeli warship cruised off the Tyre coast all night and this morning. The Israeli warship opened fire at the al-Rashidiyah coast. [end recording]

SLA Members Wounded by Shelling

NC0404081895 *Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic*
0700 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two South Lebanese Army [SLA] members were slightly wounded when the Sujud position came under artillery bombardment from the terrorists' Tallat Mlita and 'Ayn Bu Siwar positions at midnight. The SLA troops returned the fire.

Elsewhere, terrorists fired four Katyusha rockets at SLA positions in the western sector. Two rockets exploded near the Jabal Humayyid position. The other two rockets fell near the Rashaf position. The so-called Amal Movement claimed that its terrorists attacked these positions with machine guns.

Radio Rejects Rabin's Four Peace 'Issues'

JN0304182595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1142 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has restated his previous position on the Syrian track of the peace process, stressing four issues Israel seeks to realize through making peace with Syria. Although Rabin did not add anything new to what he declared previously, we believe it is important to highlight these four issues or, let us say, four terms placed by the Israeli prime minister to make peace with Syria during his meeting with the Russian foreign minister yesterday.

The first issue or the first precondition is the arrangement of borders between Syria and Israel. The fact that Rabin uttered this unclear expression means that Israel does not want to go back to the 4 June 1967 borders. In other words, Israel pays no heed to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on which the peace process was launched in the first place.

The second issue is the timetable of the Israeli troops' withdrawal to the borders which will be agreed upon. This fact, as is clear, is related to the first issue. Rabin seeks to accomplish an Israeli withdrawal to borders suiting Israel and realizing its long-term ambitions. Rabin made such a proposal a long time ago and Syria rejected it at the time, as the Israeli prime minister recalls.

The third issue is the full normalization of relations following a partial or preliminary, according to Rabin, withdrawal from the Golan and granting of a grace period in order to evaluate this normalization and Syrian intentions. Here, the Israeli prime minister goes back to the unacceptable partial deals policy. Furthermore, he wants to reap the fruits of peace in terms of normalization of relations, opening of borders, exchange of ambassadors, and termination of the state of belligerency before peace is established and before Israel declares its readiness to fully withdraw from the Golan.

Finally, the fourth issue or let us say the fourth pretext, that is, security arrangements. Rabin, here, does not talk about security arrangements on the two sides of borders but rather says, with full determination, that these are security arrangements in the Golan.

A quick and rudimentary study of these four issues or, let us say, of Rabin's plan of what he sees as peace with Syria, emphasizes a number of facts Syria has publically revealed more than once. These facts are that Israel does not work for peace or, in the best cases, works for its own peace and not that peace aspired by Syria and the whole world. Israel, as emphasized by Rabin's plan or his terms for making peace, does not acknowledge the 4 June 1967 borders. Through peace talks, it wants to demarcate new borders in line with its expansionist ambitions and

ambitions in the Arab land. These new borders mean Syria's relinquishment of parts of its land to appease Israel. Israel talks about a timetable for some withdrawal in and not from the Golan. Israel on the one hand wants to squander time and ignore the facts of history and geography on the other, when it rejects withdrawal from a land that has been Syrian land since time immemorial and will remain so forever. Israel also wants normalization with Syria, establishment of relations, opening of borders and so on and so forth at a time when the Israeli occupation of the Syrian land continues. With this, Israel wants to jump to results before reaching an agreement on introductory matters.

Security arrangements inside the Golan represent an ignorance of the principle of equality [tasawi] and parallelism [tawazi] in these arrangements which the two sides should enjoy and not this party or that in a manner that threatens security and stability in the region. Arabs and Syria need security arrangements more than any other party, given that they are subjected to aggression and their land is occupied, and not the other way round. Moreover, Israel's talk about testing Syria's intention and about long-term periods after which Israel will distribute certificates of good conduct and submission to the Israeli peace. All of this will be done while the Arab land is still occupied. If we add to the above mentioned facts Israel's operations of killing, terrorism, assassination, shelling, and land and naval blockades against Lebanon, then the conclusion any sane person will reach is that Israel is not concerned about peace, does not work for it, and has not taken a single step toward it. Naturally, Rabin's impossible terms are unacceptable in form and substance because they contradict the simplest rules of sound logic and mind, the foundations of just and comprehensive peace, and international resolutions.

While placing these terms and raising these issues, Rabin realizes, before any one else, that they will be rejected by Syria. This fact in particular prompts him to raise and reiterate these issues in a bid to move the ball from the Israeli court to the Syrian court and give the impression that Syria is the party that hampers peace efforts. Syria has repeatedly emphasized that it is for just and comprehensive peace whose foundations were laid down by the international community and the peace process cosponsors. Israel rejects these foundations and evades them in broad daylight. This places on the international community and the U.S. and Russian cosponsors a great responsibility to convince Israel to tread the right path leading to peace and forsake prevarications and replacing international resolutions with Israeli conditions. If Israel does not abandon this policy, it appears that the peace process will not advance toward the aspired goal, that is, the realization of a just peace in the region.

Editorial: Israel Distorts Damascus Peace Policy

JN0404115695 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 29 Mar 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Israel's Rumors Are Worthless"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Although the Israeli foreign minister admitted there was no progress in the negotiations that resumed with Syria at the ambassadorial level in Washington, several Israeli sources insist on creating scenarios that have nothing to do with the truth. They do this by spreading various news reports designed to foster conclusions that will determine a future course in harmony with Israel's objectives.

These sources spoke first about an understanding on security arrangements. Second, the sources spoke about U.S. promises to delete Syria's name from the so-called terrorist list. Third, they talked about the presence of some Palestinian factions in Damascus. Last, but not least, the sources repeated the known Israeli stand toward the Golan. They expressed a readiness to withdraw, but did not say to what extent.

It is clear that the rumors spread by Israeli sources aim not just to confuse the situation and distort the truth, but also to impose unconditional Israeli talks on a Syria that would have no choice but to accept them.

Here, we should say that what is being peddled by Israel is none of its business, for the talk about security arrangements will continue to be rejected if it does not touch on full equality [tasawi tamm]. The talk about Syrian-U.S. relations is the business of the two parties and Israel has nothing to do with it whatsoever. This also applies to the talk about the Palestinian factions, which is a Syrian-Palestinian affair with which Israel has nothing to do. The rumors promoted by Israeli sources in the form of conditions are absolutely untrue because Syria does not accept or yield to any conditions, and refuses to even discuss them.

Regarding partial withdrawal, it is a known and a repeatedly rejected stand. When Syria agreed to resume negotiations at the ambassadorial level, it did so to give the efforts to push the peace process a new chance, to be added to the previous chances Israel did not exploit appropriately.

Based on this, signs originating from Rabin's government confirm that the Israeli position remains unchanged. Hence, the peace process will continue to stand still. It cannot be moved by rumors and statements which, on the surface, appear optimistic but are, in fact, worthless maneuvers. What is even more important is the fact that these rumors do not affect Syria's firm and frank position on the peace process.

Daily Assails U.S. Senator's Stand on Nation

JN0304205595 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
28 Mar 95 p 1

[Editorial by Muhammad Khayr al-Wadi: "Helms and the Israeli Glasses"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Jesse Helms harbors an unequalled hostility to Syria. He makes statements from time to time to distort Damascus' position and does not

hesitate to heap abuse on Syria. Syria, he alleges, is hostile to peace and has entered the peace process only to get Western aid in general and U.S. aid in particular. The Syrians, he adds, are killers, and are involved in terrorist actions, and do not deserve any confidence or respect! The occupied Golan, he says, is Israeli land and should never be returned to Syria!!

We would not have paid any attention to Mr. Helms' views and his deep-rooted grudge against Syria if he had been an ordinary person and had not occupied an official post. Many people in Israel are extremely hostile to Syria and its positions. But Mr. Helms is not Israeli by citizenship or birth. First, he is an American citizen—or he is supposed to be. Second, he is the current chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and he should express his country's interests and reflect the views of the American citizens, who have granted him their confidence and elected him to represent them, rather than others, at the U.S. House of Representatives.

We have tried to find one justification for Mr. Helms' hostility to Syria, but to no avail. The Syrians maintain no commercial or other ties with him, and he does not know Syria and even its location, its political weight, and its cultural role in human history.

Syria does not blackmail the American tax payer nor share him his daily bread, as Israel does. It does not demand U.S. aid or get billions of dollars from the U.S. treasury, as Israel does.

Syria has not pushed the American people into conflicts, enmities, and positions that basically conflict with its interests. Israel, however, has been doing this for over four decades.

Syria respects the American people and is eager to maintain equitable [mutakafi'ah] relations with it. Yet, Mr. Helms insists on harming Syria's people, the builder of the foundation of civilization. The chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee also tries to harm the reputation of Damascus, the oldest city in history that is still standing fast and defending life and peace in the face of the armies of killing, aggression, destruction, and barbarism.

One day, Mr. Helms announced that he would not agree to extending large-scale U.S. aid to other states and that he would act through his official post to use the money for raising the living standard of the American people and for helping poor people in the United States.

In turn, we ask: Why does not Mr. Helms, who is concerned about U.S. funds, complain about Israel which has looted more than \$1,000 billion from the U.S. treasury since it was established? Meanwhile, the U.S. people have only reaped more poverty, problems, and others' hatred.

Moreover, why does not Mr. Helms utter a single word against Israel and the Zionist lobbies which interfere in every U.S. affair? Why does the chairman of the Senate's

Foreign Relations Committee, who is a Republican Party member, remain silent on the positions of Israel, which has made intensive efforts to obstruct the U.S. peace initiative that was unleashed by the former Republican administration, knowing that Israel is still trying to undermine the bases of this initiative? Both the current and former U.S. administrations declared that they were serious about peacemaking in the Middle East.

It is now clear to everyone that Israel is the party which is preventing the achievement of peace and placing obstacles to peace. We have not heard that Mr. Helms has defended the U.S. viewpoint and uttered offensive words against those who are obstructing the peace process, clinging to aggression and expansion, and stockpiling nuclear and other arms to threaten others!

Syria has emphasized that peace is its strategic option, opened the door to the current U.S. initiative, provided the circumstances for its continuity, and protected it from all Israeli mines. Moreover, Syria did not loot the U.S. treasury or involve the U.S. people in bloody conflicts with others. Therefore, Syria and its people expected Mr. Helms to tell the truth in conformity with the official U.S. statements which emphasized that Syria is serious and concerned about peace and that Damascus has an important role in ensuring security, peace, and stability in the whole Middle East.

We are convinced that Mr. Helms will change his positions and statements once he removes his Israeli eyeglasses and sees the Middle East situation and events with a U.S. eye that seeks the U.S., and not the Israeli, interest.

Israel and the Zionist propaganda have deceived hundreds of U.S. officials, including Mr. Helms, and prompted them to take unjust positions that did not fulfill the wishes and aspirations of the Americans. As a result, the U.S. people have paid, and continue to pay, a very dear price. A day will come when the immense

losses which Israel inflicted on the United States in the whole world will be revealed.

Concluding, we say: Syria will not be affected by such accusations and will not determine its position toward the U.S. people on the basis of unjust statements made by this or that official. We are certainly convinced that when Mr. Helms approaches the truth and sees the situation as it really is, and not as Israel depicts it, he will undoubtedly abandon these premeditated positions and hard feelings toward Syria. At that time, he will see how good, deep-rooted, peace-loving, and worthy of respect the great Syrian people are. The Syrian people have inspired ingenuity and founded civilizations.

Posuvalyuk Briefs al-Shar' on Kozyrev Mideast Tour

JN0304211995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian deputy foreign minister.

The meeting was attended by Raslan 'Allush, the assistant foreign minister, and the Russian ambassador in Damascus.

Mr. Posuvalyuk briefed the foreign minister on the results of Foreign Minister Kozyrev's tour in the region.

Khaddam Receives Lebanon's al-Hariri in Damascus

NC0204061895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri met with a number of Syrian officials, including Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, in Damascus last night. According to press reports, Prime Minister al-Hariri expressed satisfaction with Syria's stand, which is supportive of Lebanon.

Bangladesh

Activist Groups Prepare for Clinton Arrival

BK0104162595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1343 GMT
1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, April 1 (AFP)—Bangladeshis were on Saturday eagerly awaiting the arrival of US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton hoping to bring a variety of causes to the attention of the wife of the world's most powerful man.

Although Clinton will remain under tight security when she arrives from Nepal on Sunday, and will stick tightly to a pre-arranged itinerary, a range of groups plan to air their grievances to the First Lady, press reports said.

Among them, a women's rights group wants her to stop the marketing of an American birth control method called "Norplant," alleging it "violated biomedical ethics and human rights," said rights activist Farida Akhter.

Another calling itself "Conscious Citizens of Bangladesh" is seeking to persuade her stop the passage of the Harkin's Bill, which is to ban American companies from importing goods made by children under 14 years old.

The bill has caused problems for Bangladeshi garment factories, which are now reorganising themselves, but the group echoed social workers that it would send children from poor families into petty crime and prostitution.

"We will welcome her with flowers," said Salim Newaz Chowdhury of a local district development council, "adding that they would be pushing Clinton to press neighbouring India to solve problems of sharing water from common rivers with Bangladesh.

Clinton is to travel to western Jessore district Monday to see village women at work and children in school, but is visiting mainly to see the workings of the Grameen Bank headed by Muhammad Yunus, who met President Clinton as governor of Arkansas.

However, most are eyeing a reception Sunday to be hosted by the American Ambassador David Merrill for Clinton, which will bring together arch-rivals Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and the main opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0820 GMT on 1 April adds in a Kathmandu-dated report: "Leftists extremists arrested after chanting anti-US slogans and hurling flags at the arrival here of American First Lady Hillary Clinton were released Saturday, a source said."]

Commentary Says Clinton Visit To Improve Relations

BK0304163295 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton received a (thearty) welcome when she arrived in Dhaka yesterday. The first lady was received at Zia International Airport by Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman and Mrs. Rahman. This is the first time that a U.S. first lady has visited this part of the world. Hillary Clinton does not hold any official post in the U.S. Administration, yet her visit has the status of a state visit. Therefore, one hopes that ties with South Asia, particularly with Bangladesh, will become closer.

Political observers of the United States have said that President Clinton consults with her on political issues and depends on her as a close adviser. Hillary expressed her interest in visiting this South Asian country to see the revolution taking place in rural areas. This revolution in the life of the rural people was initiated by Professor Yunus through his Grameen [Rural] Bank. President Clinton also has an interest in this project. Besides her special interest in the Grameen Bank and Bangladesh, the first lady also visited other South Asian countries. There exists a decade-long relationship between the family of the U.S. President and the Grameen Bank. In the middle of the 1980's, President Clinton, who was then governor of Arkansas, invited Professor Yunus to set up a Grameen Bank project in Little Rock under the name [words indistinct] Fund. Subsequently, several projects modeled on the Grameen Bank were set up in the United States and elsewhere. A few months ago, Professor Yunus was invited to the White House to hold private talks with the President. Professor Yunus also met Mrs. Clinton and extended a personal invitation to visit Bangladesh [words indistinct].

After her arrival in Dhaka yesterday, Mrs. Clinton was the guest of honor at a reception at the U.S. Embassy. [Words indistinct] it as a model for the implementation of rural development programs in Bangladesh. She further said that the United States has much to learn from the family planning, Grameen Bank, and other Bangladeshi development models. Mrs. Clinton also conveyed her husband's thanks to Dhaka for its cooperation in UN peacekeeping operations around the world.

Mrs. Clinton visited several noteworthy projects of the Grameen Bank in Jessore today. She also visited a school of the BRAC [Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee]. Later, accompanied by her daughter, Chelsea, she visited the neighboring Panchbaria Girls High School and spent time with the students. She spoke of how their family came to the White House from Arkansas after Mr. Clinton was elected.

The contribution of the U.S. first lady toward ensuring the welfare of children and protecting the rights of women is undeniable. Her important role in these two sectors is a source of inspiration for those associated with the cause of social development and progress. There is no doubt that her visit will greatly encourage organizations engaged in eradicating poverty and ending racial discrimination. We believe that her visit will be a ray of hope to the people of Bangladesh and remain fresh in our

memories. This (?spirit) will play an important role in the development of women and children of our society.

India

Article Links Clinton Visit to U.S. Investment

BK0304120595 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English
3 Apr 95 p 8

[Article by Seema Sirohi under the "Headliner" rubric: "First a Woman, Then a Lady"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hillary Rodham Clinton, the new icon of American womanhood, swept through India talking of women's empowerment and children's rights. She spoke with feeling about investing in the future and showed her strength as the world's most skilful out-of-office politician.

Hillary announced that India would be the first beneficiary of USAID's \$100 million grant for women and children announced at the Copenhagen summit—her only policy-related statement. The elite audience at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation clapped but a paper thin slice of \$100 million where most of the world's one billion poor are concentrated is hardly significant. However, the US First Lady turned it into a major announcement, the true politician and strategist that she is.

Hillary, accompanied by her daughter Chelsea, came on a supposedly apolitical journey but nothing the First Lady does is ever without significance. Taking the failure of her health care initiative back home in her stride, she has embarked on yet another phase to remake herself and serve the cause of her husband's presidency.

India is regarded by Washington as a troublesome country whose nuclear ambitions have long irritated US policy-makers. At the same time, India is emerging as a huge potential market for US businesses and Americans would like to maintain then lead in investment and influence.

A stream of high-level US visitors bears testimony to that and Hillary was giving essentially the same message by visiting. And she added the glamour that sometimes helps thaw the icy crust of bureaucrats on both sides. Her hour-long talk with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao without aides is said to have centred around women's issues but that is only half the story.

Mr Rao has quietly been making India's case—both on the business and political questions that rankle the two nations—directly to the US President and his wife. But if he only pouted about reservations for women, as official spokesman stressed, then he is not the crafty politician he is said to be.

His counterpart across the border used the presence of Hillary to loudly sing the same song about Kashmir that she and other Pakistanis so soulfully sing all the time.

What Hillary learns during her trip to South Asia will surely be transmitted to the President's ears.

Mrs Clinton is said to be the second most powerful "man" in America after her husband. A 60s enthusiast for changing the world, she has weathered the most vicious campaign against her attempts to influence public policy in the US since Bill Clinton was elected President.

She has been called "Lady Macbeth," painted as overbearing and overly ambitious, and put on the defensive by Republican hardliners who feel threatened by the very idea of a strong woman who knows her mind. Posing as mirrors of American values and barometers of propriety, the conservative brigade has forced the First Lady to retract, moderate and even recast herself several times over, the most painful being the forced addition of her husband's last name.

Bill Clinton once told an interviewer that Hillary was very attached to her maiden-name and had made a decision not to change it when she was nine years. It had nothing to do with "strident feminism" but only her attachment to her family.

In many ways, Hillary Clinton is almost too post-modern even for the US where women are still criticised for being ambitious and disliked if they practise the art of achievement. In the power-driven, self-important, lobbyist-infested, old boys' network world of Washington, it is the men who mostly conduct the show. The establishment press generally reacts negatively to women who do not fit their perception of a political wife—a smiling appendage who dutifully bakes cookies.

But being an equal comes quite naturally to Hillary. She is confident, cool and fiercely intelligent to the extent that she appears intimidating to others. Apart from crusty Senators from the Republican Party who can't relate to her, even some women are uneasy when faced with someone who seems to be at ease with power and who is not shy about her aims and beliefs.

The First Lady has had to cross innumerable hurdles just trying to do "good" work. She set out to reform America's moribund health care system which callously leaves 30 million people to the mercy of God. She headed a task force and ably defended her proposals in front of various congressional committees.

But the almighty alliance among the insurance companies, private hospitals, the doctors who benefit immensely from the status quo and the politicians on Capitol Hill ultimately defeated her painstaking efforts.

She is passionately involved in children's causes and has been a longtime friend and supporter of Marian Edleman, the head of the Children's Defence Fund. Hillary's interests are neither acquired nor driven by the compulsion to have a preoccupation as a First Lady as Nancy Reagan's attempts to fashion an anti-drug campaign.

Hillary is no stranger to the world of power and profession. She began with aplomb—serving as a lawyer on the House Judiciary Committee that was investigating Richard Nixon's conduct following the Watergate scandal. A veteran of the McGovern and Carter campaigns, she has always been driven to public service—some might argue in a more dedicated and focussed manner than even her husband who tends to get lost in the amorphous details of policy making.

President Clinton once said of his wife: "I have never known a person with a stronger sense of right and wrong in my life—ever." He should know since Hillary has pulled him back from the brink of political disaster when his career seemed all ready to enter obscurity in the backwaters of Arkansas.

Friends and aides have repeatedly said in interviews that without Hillary's steely determination and political acumen, Bill Clinton despite being extremely bright and ambitious would not have risen to the position that he did.

Hillary had her eyes set on the stars from the time she entered law school at Yale. According to friends quoted in newsreports, she knew the art of networking and the "importance of starting a Rolodex file" when other students were experimenting with excess—trying drugs and generally rebelling against the times.

She cultivated professors, led groups and helped facilitate consensus on campus. She was different and cared little about appearance and other outward frills. When she joined the topmost law firm in Arkansas after her marriage, she continued to dress in a rather frumpy manner but it was impressive to many of her colleagues because when she entered the courtroom, she filled it as a "lawyer" and not as a "woman."

That she was a leader was evident from those heady days in college when Bill and Hillary fell in love.

Envoy Speaks on UN, Kashmir at IPU Meeting

BK0204132295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has reiterated its demand for restructuring the United Nations to enable it perform its expanded role effectively. Speaking at the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] conference which ended in Madrid yesterday, the leader of the Indian delegation, Dr. Najma Heptullah, called upon the United Nations to recognize the role of Interparliamentary Union in tackling major issues like social security, poverty, and gender discrimination. Dr. Heptullah called for ending state-sponsored terrorism.

Commenting on the remarks made by a member of the Pakistani delegation, she said Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and there is nothing for the UN to settle. She called upon Pakistan to stop aiding and abetting terrorism in Kashmir and interfering in the internal matters of India.

Japanese Delegation Links Aid to Nuclear Issue

BK0404092895 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Mar 95 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi—Japan has held out a veiled threat that it may be forced to reconsider continued Official Development Assistance (ODA) if India opts for the deployment of ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons.

"We do not wish to see any developments which would hinder us from extending ODA to your country" Ambassador Yoshio Hatano, leader of a 22-member high-level Japanese Mission, told senior Indian officials.

The Mission is here to hold a high-level policy dialogue on the direction of ADA. Japan is also keen that the Indian Government should take measures to improve the "transparency and accountability", as well as the effectiveness and efficiency, of the ODA implementation.

Addressing a press conference some time later, Mr Hatano tried to play down the problem, citing an assurance from Indian leaders that India did not have any plans to possess nuclear weapons. He also confirmed that, in the case of India, there was transparency in the implementation of ODA.

Mr Hatano said that the Japanese government would maintain its ODA as the principal pillar of its external policies. But "no recipient government may take our aid for granted", he cautioned.

The Japanese Mission discussed the basic direction of ODA. Japan would like to bring in the environment and poverty alleviation as the new thrust areas. It was to India in 1958 that Japan extended its first ODA loan. The ODA extended to India over the past three years (1992-94) amounted to \$3.3 million.

Mr Hatano said that the public voice in Japan calling for the efficient implementation of ODA, had become stronger than ever in recent years.

The Mission held discussions with the Indian delegation, headed by Finance Secretary M.S. Ahluwalia. According to an official press release, the discussions covered the Indian economic situation and development strategies, as well as the future direction of ODA.

The minutes of the discussion were signed by N.K. Singh (Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs) and Hideaki Ueda (Deputy Director-General, Economic Co-operation; Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan).

Finance Ministry officials said that Japan's ODA to India would be continued in the areas of economic infrastructure (power and transport), alleviation of poverty (medicare and health, agriculture and rural development, population and HIV/AIDs and support for small enterprises) and preservation of the environment.

BJP Criticizes Government's Nuclear Policy*BK0404035895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] national executive meeting now in progress in Panaji in Goa has passed a resolution criticizing the center's nuclear policy. The party has also demanded that the missile launching program should not be abandoned due to external pressures. Addressing a news conference, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee said India should not sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty].

Report Alleges Pakistani Support for 'Terrorism'*BK0404051795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has categorically said that Pakistan's support to terrorist elements directed against India is the root cause of tension in bilateral relations.

The Defense Ministry's annual report released today said that India proposed several confidence-building measures, including no-first-use of nuclear capabilities, measures to maintain peace and tranquillity along the Line of Control, and non-attack on each other's population centers. The proposals covered, among other issues, Siachen, Sir Creek and the Tulbul navigation project. But Pakistan's response has not been constructive, the report points out. It said the sale of M-11 missiles and allied technology to Pakistan by China is also a cause of concern.

Tibetan Exiles Urge No Compromise on PRC Border*BK0404092295 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Mar 95 p 3*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi—Leaders of the exiled Tibetans on Thursday said India stood to lose if it compromised on the issue of the McMahon Line, that marks the border between India and China.

Addressing a press conference here on the eve of "Thank you India Day," the Tibetan Peoples' Deputy Assembly Chairman, Professor Samdhong Rinpoche, said it was most "unfortunate" that there had been no reference to the McMahon Line in the past rounds of talks between India and China for the resolution of the territorial dispute between the two countries since the Chinese aggression of 1962.

He recalled that Indian Parliament adopted a unanimous resolution on November 14, 1962, which said India would continue to stick to its claim on the McMahon Line (it was rejected by China at that time) and would reclaim its territory occupied by China during the conflict.

Prof Rinpoche said the pro-China lobby in India felt that the McMahon Line was an "imaginary line" and bred antipathy between the two countries.

"Thank you India Day" will be observed by all Tibetan refugees in India as a token of their gratitude to the people and the government of the country where they have been staying for the past 35 years.

Mr Tashi Wangdi leader of another Tibetan establishment in India, said they were expecting that India would not make any changes in its policy towards Tibet, as framed by Jawaharlal Nehru.

Referring to the alleged indifference of China towards the Tibetan issue, he said Dalai Lama had gone to the extent of giving a number of concessions to China to settle the matter, but China had failed to come out with any definite proposal on that.

Prof Rinpoche said notwithstanding the ongoing stalemate between China and the Dalai Lama, they were still hopeful of a positive solution in the next five to ten years. Explaining this point, he said, China was undergoing a serious leadership crisis and it was hoped that the new leadership would be more rational and have democratic thinking.

Referring to the cancellation of the proposed peace march by Tibetan refugees from New Delhi to Lhasa, Prof Rinpoche said they apprehended ruthlessness by China in thwarting their march, and decided to postpone it for the time being.

He alleged destruction of Tibetan ecology and environment by the Chinese, who, according to him, also attempted to reduce Tibetans to a minority in their own land by bringing people from the Chinese mainland.

China To Receive 2 Million Tons of Wheat*BK0204123795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi is to export 2 million tonnes of wheat to China to ward off its food shortage this year. According to reports, China is facing a crisis in food grains production. An estimate put the shortfall at around 10 million tonnes. According to agency reports from Beijing, the first shipment of about 50,000 tonnes of wheat to China is already on the high seas.

Iran**Commentary on Perry's 'Failure' in Russia***LD0404113295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0951 GMT 4 Apr 95*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the conclusion of the visit by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry to Russia, it

became clear that the U.S. diplomatic effort to prevent nuclear cooperation between Tehran and Moscow has failed once again. In their talks with the U.S. defense secretary, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov stressed that Russia will continue to cooperate with Iran and said that the United States should refrain from interfering in Moscow's political decision-making.

Russian officials referred to the peaceful nature of the nuclear cooperation between Tehran and Moscow, rejected the claim made by the United States that cooperation between Iran and Russia would lead to the manufacturing of a nuclear weapon by Iran, and underlined that they would continue their cooperation with Iran.

This is not the first time that U.S. efforts to prevent economic and political cooperation between Iran and other countries have met with failure. As a Russian official explained, the negative attitude adopted by the United States toward cooperation between other countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran arises from the inclination felt by the United States to tell other countries what to do and who to deal with.

However, the failure of the U.S. defense secretary's trip to Russia and his lack of success in forcing Russian officials to change their minds about Moscow's nuclear cooperation with Tehran has shown once again that Moscow is not inclined or prepared in any shape or form to allow its useful and constructive cooperation with a powerful country such as Islamic Iran to be affected by the United States' invasive intentions.

In fact, the cause of U.S. anxiety is the possibility that Russia, as an independent country and a big country, should once again define its own role in international affairs in an independent way and that it should decide for itself what kind of relations it has with which countries. When these relations are with an independent country such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, the U.S. Administration's anxiety is doubled, because this can serve as a model for the foreign policy of all those countries that want to shape their foreign policy freely and independently.

At any rate, America's attempt to disrupt Iran's relations with various countries has not had much success so far, because the Islamic Republic of Iran bases its foreign relations on the principles of mutual respect and mutual interest. It will continue to expand and consolidate its peaceful relations with other countries within this framework in all areas—including nuclear technology, as has been approved by the relevant international organizations, especially the International Atomic Energy Agency.

President To Leave for India, Georgia 16 Apr
LD0404115895 Tehran IRNA in English 1103 GMT
4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April, 4, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is to leave for New

Delhi, India, April 16, on a two-day official visit to discuss trade and relations between Iran and India, a morning daily announced here Tuesday.

The English-language IRAN NEWS quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying that Hashemi-Rafsanjani plans to meet with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

The paper added that Iran's president and his delegation will then travel to Georgia on a two-day visit where he will meet with Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze.

An Iranian delegation led by Minister of Agriculture, 'Isa Kalantari, is already in Georgia to discuss avenues for bilateral cooperation, another English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES wrote.

Meanwhile, the Persian-language daily IRAN noted that president's trip to India will be in response to last September's visit of Rao to Tehran. The visit of the high-ranking Iranian delegation to India has been evaluated as very important by international news circles, the paper said. Iran quoted diplomatic experts as saying that the trip may play a great role in promoting Tehran-New Delhi relations as well as in expanding regional cooperation.

Discussion on matters of mutual interests, cooperation between the Persian Gulf and Middle East as well as Indian sub-continent and issues pertinent to Kashmir crisis will be among major topics to be brought up during Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip, the daily said.

The daily wrote that another important issue for both Iran and India, is the laying of a gas pipeline from Iran to India.

New Delhi is very much interested in using Iran's capabilities in the field of transportation in order to upgrade its relations with Central Asian states and Caucasus, it added.

The daily concluded by saying that, the Bafq-Bandar-e 'Abbas rail line which was put into operation last month can help promote trade ties with India.

Commentary on UK Prime Minister's Visit to U.S.

NC0404075295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT
4 Apr 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] As you heard on the news, Britain's Prime Minister John Major has gone to the United States. This two-day visit will be a good opportunity to improve relations, which were once known as special relations. In addition to his meeting and talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton, the British prime

minister will meet and hold talks with the leaders of the Republican Party, which won the majority of seats in the two U.S. houses in the election last fall.

In the U.S. presidential campaign won by Democrat Bill Clinton, John Major's Conservative Party supported then President George Bush. Clinton's victory ended what was known during past decades as personal and friendly relations between the leaders of the two countries. The incidents that followed, particularly concerning the differing stances on the Bosnian crisis and U.S. interference in the peace process in North Ireland, quickly increased the distance being created between London and Washington.

Probably the British could tolerate the U.S. stance on Bosnia but U.S. interference in Northern Ireland incurred London's full negative reaction, such that the British press referred to it as interference in Britain's domestic affairs.

Of course the deterioration of the personal relations between the two countries' leaders and the fundamental diplomatic differences stemming from changing conditions in Europe and the tying together of the interests of Britain with the interests of the European Union, which, with its 15 member countries, extends from the Russian border to the Atlantic coast, show that being allies means nothing anymore and that relations between the two countries will fall more within the framework of relations between continental Europe and the United States.

It is also correct to say that differences and clashes of views and interests describe relations between London and Washington. But the two sides are tactfully trying to emphasize their common political points, such as their common stances on Libya, Iraq, and the Middle East peace process, and to fulfill their needs.

Majles Speaker on U.S. Efforts To Expand Sanctions

LD0404105795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the first open session of the Majles in the new year, the deputies approved an urgent bill which bans building of an Olympic village on 1,100 hectares of agricultural land in Esfahan.

According to a Central News Unit report, this bill says: In order to protect agricultural land and orchards, from the date of approving this law the development of such land for non-farming purposes is banned outside the legal boundaries of cities and towns, except in essential circumstances. In villages, too, altering the usage of this land will only be allowed in accordance with the regulations determined by the Ministry of Agriculture. [passage omitted]

During the Majles session, Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri congratulated the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution and the noble Iranian nation on the new year. [passage omitted]

Referring to the recent last-ditch efforts of America and the U.S.-Israeli propaganda conspiracy in threatening to increase economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the speaker stated: Thanks to our resources and manpower in the world today, Iran is so prepared for extensive economic activities that it needs neither America nor any other country.

Addressing countries of the Persian Gulf region, he reiterated: Iran is the best neighbor for you. Iran is a powerful country, which guarantees your stability and security. You should, therefore, not provide the excuse for the aliens to come to the region and create a market for their weapons by creating an adverse climate.

Commentary on Tougher U.S. Sanctions

LD0304162195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On 2 April, the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher once again stressed the U.S. policy of tightening economic embargoes against Islamic Republic of Iran. He also revealed that the U.S. Government had already effected economic sanctions against Iran. The U.S. secretary of state further said that this policy of Washington has, however, faced many weaknesses.

From the view point of the informed political observers, after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the establishment of the Islamic Republic in 1979, Iran has always been under pressure of the West. The West's motive for pressing Iran stems from the independent policy Iran has adopted in the post-Islamic revolution era. Based on Iran's post-revolution policy, priority has been given to the interests of Islam and Iran. This policy is not favored by the West, especially the U.S. For this reason, in the early years of the victory of the Islamic revolution, the U.S. and the West enforced economic embargoes against Islamic Republic of Iran. At present this sanction is applied to some special goods. Among these one may sight the export of advanced technology such as certain aircraft parts.

Political analysts believe that the new embargoes effected by the U.S. against Iran has caused damage to American companies more than to Iranian ones. Even American officials did not voice unanimous opinion with regard to the embargoes against Iran. THE NEW YORK TIMES reported that Tony Lake, U.S. National Security Adviser, supports Christopher's initiative. But the American trade department is opposed to it, stating that it will back measures upheld by Washington and her allies. [sentence as heard]

From the standpoint of political analysts, absence of unanimous agreement among the U.S. Government officials in relation to embargo against Iran, pressures on Iran will be lessened, on the one hand; and on the other, the U.S. will face difficulty in achieving her goals.

The 15-year long experience of Islamic Republic of Iran in confronting these embargoes somehow indicate that Iran is ready to bear tougher sanctions for preservation of its political independence. As Iran has so far left behind extensive embargoes, and considering the people's massive support, the officials of the Islamic Republic system resistance in the face of such embargoes will not be so difficult. [sentence as heard]

Daily Assails U.S. Proposal

LD0404115995 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT
4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—American leaders are in need of an external factor which they could introduce as the cause of their failure in U.S. peace scheme in the Middle East, said the morning daily 'IRAN NEWS' here Tuesday.

Commenting on the recent remarks of the American secretary of state, Warren Christopher, who has announced that Washington would be considering moves to intensify sanctions against Iran, the English-language daily said that the American Middle East peace scheme has met serious difficulties in the occupied territories, and it was becoming increasingly clear that the expenditure of time of energy [as received] on this scheme has borne no tangible results.

From the Washington's point of view, wrote the paper, the Islamic Republic was the best candidate to perform the role of a cause to the U.S. failure.

On the other hand, it added, Clinton did not wish to be just a passive agent of policies determined by the Republicans who are now controlling both the Senate and the House of Representatives in every area, and so he had to stage a show of having taken the initiative in a foreign policy area.

The U.S. has already imposed a number of sanctions against Iran, "but it is my opinion that the punitive measures have to be intensified," the paper quoted Christopher as saying to the NBC TV.

This was nothing more than a "theatrical gesture" because previous experience has demonstrated that these kind of sanctions against Iran were "futile attempts exactly because of the complicated capitalistic system which is interwoven with deceit and subterfuge and is motivated solely by financial gains," the paper argued.

It added "the American companies and their international subsidiaries are sure to find ways of bypassing the sanctions. The possibility of finding footholds in the profitable Iranian market has often led them to cheat on their own government and there are no reasons to believe that this will not be repeated in future."

All this should not cause responsible authorities in our country to relax the alertness with which they will have to handle the issue of the sanctions, the paper wrote.

It added that this is all the more important since a portion of the Iranian oil is being bought by the American companies for which substitutes have to be found.

On the other it has to be admitted that this should not be a very difficult task as there are enough buyers who would be willing to replace the American companies, concluded the daily.

Velayati Views 'Constructive' Talks in Far East

LD0304120795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On returning from a trip to China, Thailand, and Vietnam, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that the results of his discussions were satisfactory and constructive.

The foreign minister also expressed satisfaction over the expansion of political, economic, and cultural relations between China and Iran, and said that the two countries hold common views on many regional and international issues.

In their negotiations, the two countries condemned the fact that some Western countries abuse the issue of human rights as a political tool to pressure independent countries. They also condemned discrimination in the implementation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, he said.

Mr. Velayati also referred to his negotiations with Thai officials regarding the possibility of economic cooperation between the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and ASEAN, and Iran's geographical position and role as a connecting bridge between the two organizations. He said that ways of cooperation between Iran and Thailand in bringing together the two regional organizations had been discussed.

On economic cooperation between Iran and Vietnam, Mr. Velayati stated that the two countries have started good economic relations. The state of these relations for the next two years will be discussed during a visit to Tehran by the Vietnamese trade minister, he added. A joint economic commission will be formed and will be headed by the two countries' ministers of agriculture.

Comments on Asian Tour

LD0304172095 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT
3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Tehran on Monday winding up his nine-day visit to China, Vietnam and Thailand.

He said upon his arrival at Mehrabad Airport that during his Asian tour, he and the officials of the three host countries stressed the need for further expansion of bilateral cooperation in fields of mutual interest.

He described Iran-China relations especially after the victory of the Islamic revolution as friendly. Velayati said that Iran and China as the two revolutionary states oppose interference of aliens in internal affairs of other countries. He said that Tehran and Beijing believe that the issues such as disarmament and human rights should not be used as a pretext to interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries.

Iranian foreign minister said that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) should be extended with no exception and that the international organizations should follow the issue without any bias or any political considerations. He said that for instance, the occupying regime of al-Quds [Jerusalem] is busy building up its nuclear arsenal with no objection from the certain Western countries.

On his visit to Thailand, Velayati said that it was successful and the visit opened new chapter in bilateral relations.

Velayati quoted Thai prime minister as saying that Thailand regards Iran as the gate of the Central Asia and the Caucasus for economic cooperation and that Iran could count on Thailand as the gate of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Velayati said that there were good grounds for economic cooperation between Iran and Thailand and some proposals were made for investment in different areas in either country which would be studied in Bangkok-Tehran joint economic cooperation.

On his visit to Hanoi, Velayati said that Iran and Vietnam are interested in promotion of bilateral relations. Velayati said that Vietnam is exporter of rice and rubber and Iran enjoys industrial possibilities, which makes cooperation between the two countries much more likely. He said that Vietnam could enjoy Iran's capability in building roads, refinery and cement plant and use Iranian technical know-how in exploration of oil.

Vietnamese minister of commerce will visit Tehran in near future to study the grounds for closer cooperation between the two countries, Velayati said.

Velayati said that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran would visit Vietnam soon.

Besharati Urges 'Friendly Talks' With UAE Officials

*LD0304134995 Tehran IRNA in English 1244 GMT
3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April, 3, IRNA—The interior minister, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati has called for holding of friendly talks between high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in order to solve their problems.

Besharati in a meeting with the UAE's ambassador to Tehran, Ahmad Muhammad Burhayman here today, said: "To solve our differences, there is no need for international courts and forums. We can attain desirable results through friendly talks among our senior officials."

In the meeting Besharati invited the UAE's interior minister to visit Tehran for talks on the two countries problems.

Underscoring unity, brotherhood and solidarity among Muslim countries, the interior minister said differences among the Islamic countries would encourage the enemies of Islam to take advantage of the situation and create crises in Islamic countries.

The UAE's ambassador conveyed the message of congratulation of the crown prince of Dubai and UAE's defence minister, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid on the occasion of the new Iranian year and called for the expansion of Tehran-Dubai ties in all areas of mutual interests.

Envoy Views Bosnia, Afghanistan at Madrid Meeting

*LD0104154295 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT
1 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Madrid, April 1, IRNA—Akhtar Darakhshandeh, a member of the Iranian parliamentary delegation here at the general meeting of the 93rd Interparliamentary Conference on Friday [31 April] night called for removal of the arms embargo imposed on the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as an independent country.

Underlining that the just settlement of the Palestinian issue will be as a key for solving the Middle East crisis, Darakhshandeh said that the main obstacle in the way of solving the Palestinian issue is the Zionist regime that follows no aim except the continuation of aggression and occupation of the Palestine and Lebanese territories.

She also underlined that the recent peace process was not going to succeed and that in the peace process no attention has been paid to the legitimate and integral rights of the Palestinian people and so it will not result in peace.

Referring to the concern of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the current clashes and bloodshed in Afghanistan and the destiny of its people, Darakhshandeh underlined that the political talks and the peaceful settlement of the problems will be the best way to solve the problems.

During the years the Islamic Republic of Iran has given support to the Afghani people by accepting millions of the Afghani refugees, said Darakhshandeh, expressing the Iranian readiness for giving further humanitarian assistance as well as supporting any kind of political solution which could safeguard the interest of all the Afghani groups and different classes.

She referred to the neighborly relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Persian Gulf states and stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has called for removal of the existing differences among the regional states. She also called for a just solution to the regional problems, friendly atmosphere and a durable peace in the region.

She concluded that the Islamic Republic of Iran has reiterated the territorial integrity of all the countries and is opposing any kind of the policy which brings the foreign forces to the region.

Turkish Invasion of Iraq 'Violation' of Territory

*LD0304170895 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT
3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA—The new policy of the Turkish Army based upon militarism in northern Iraq will lead to political chaos and instability, the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in a commentary here on Monday [3 April].

"The operation of Turkey in northern Iraq is a clear violation of its neighbor's territorial integrity," the paper said, adding that nothing could justify the "aggression."

On March 20, Turkey launched an extensive operation against the Turkish Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) based in northern Iraq. Some 35,000 troops are involved in the operation which is still continuing.

Clashes between two rival Iraqi parties on the one hand and unrestrained air and ground attacks by the Turkish Army inside the Iraqi soil on the other, have complicated and deteriorated the situation, particularly in Kurdish areas both in Iraq and in Turkey, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI commented.

Kurdish-controlled areas north of Iraq have recently been the scene of fierce clashes between Jalal Talebani's Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and Mas'ud Barzani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Referring to worldwide opposition to the Turkish offensive, the paper said, the operation in northern Iraq shows that Ankara's policy for separating the area from Iraq in line with the Western policy has proved a failure.

It said the Turkish Government came to know that it would be the first loser if a Kurdish state independent from Ankara and Baghdad is established since Turkey has a Kurdish population of 14 million in at least eight of its provinces.

Meanwhile, the paper said, due to unretrievable damages inflicted on Turkey's economy after the U.N. sanctions against Iraq, Ankara decided to help Baghdad to suppress secessionist attempts by Kurds.

It is not to the benefit of Ankara to intensify the dimensions of the conspiracy and sedition the U.S.

created in the region three years ago, Jumhuri advised Suleyman Demirel's Government.

West Said Indifferent to 'Tragedy' in Algeria

*LD0304123495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT
3 Apr 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Military rulers in Algeria have put up a show of negotiations with some political parties at a time when, according to reports coming from that country, the suppression of the people by security forces continues with intensity.

According to figures published by sources close to the ruling establishment, the regime's lackeys have martyred 2,800 people in the past two weeks. Although many observers think that figure is unrealistic, revealing only a part of the reality, the very numbers speak of the depth of tragedy taking shape in Algeria.

Since the military coup and the beginning of popular resistance against the coup leaders three years ago, suppression of the people has intensified with the killing of several hundred Muslim fighters. The present casualty figures are, however, unprecedented. Meanwhile, international organizations, claiming to defend human rights and Western governments, have reacted strangely to the bloody events of Algeria. These institutions which spare no political or propaganda effort when a Western citizen is lightly scratched are completely indifferent and oblivious to the unprecedented massacre of Algerian people.

It is interesting to note that Western governments have condemned the struggle of the Algerian people to unseat the coup leaders as acts of violence and terrorism and have provided direct and indirect support to the Algerian military rulers.

The policy of the Western diplomatic machinery and mass media toward the crisis in Algeria needs deep reflection, as it is a clear example of the Western double standards in international affairs.

Some experts believe that publishing horrific figures of casualties among people struggling against the ruling regime is a show of military strength and an effort to measure world public opinion toward the acts of suppression, but it is difficult not to notice the indifference and silence of those in the West who claim to support human rights.

Yazdi Chairs Session of Judiciary Branch

*LD0304192695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT
3 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first meeting of the new year between officials of the judiciary branch was held

today. The session was chaired by Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary branch. [passage omitted]

Yazdi expressed satisfaction with the entire judicial establishment and declared 1374 [year beginning 21 March] as the year of accuracy and speed for the judiciary branch for the fulfillment of rights.

The session also discussed the problems brought up by the judicial courts, deputies of the Majles, social insurance companies, private and state firms, and people in connection with the problem of fluctuations in the rate of blood-money and accidental killing. It was decided that the decisions based on the principles and sources of religious jurisprudence and adhering to the legal and shari'ah standards should be conveyed to all the judicial offices by the minister of justice.

Alleged Secrets of Nuclear Program Revealed

95LA0134A *Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic*
20 Jan 95 pp 18-19

[Article by Safa Ha'iri: "Secrets of Iran's Nuclear Program and a Map of Its Secret Factories; U.S. Expert: 'Iran Will Manufacture a Nuclear Bomb in Less than 5 Years'; An Israeli General: 'We Will Be Confronting an Iranian Bomb in One Year'; Details of Military Cooperation Between Iran, China, and North Korea]

[FBIS Translated Text] Will 1995 be the year during which Iran's nuclear program will be destroyed? The question is being asked today at the highest levels, particularly in Washington and Tel Aviv after information affirming that Iran will be in a position to own a nuclear bomb in five years was uncovered. It is worth noting that raising the question of an Iranian nuclear bomb is coinciding with American pressures on Pakistan to induce it to suspend its nuclear program. Washington is trying to get Pakistan to suspend its nuclear program as it insists on ignoring Israel's more than 200 nuclear bombs. Notwithstanding the political implications of the campaign against Iran, Iran's nuclear threat seems to be a very serious one indeed. In this report AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI reveals the truth about Iran's nuclear strategy as well as details of that strategy. This report reveals the truth about secret nuclear installations, factories for weapons of mass destruction, and the U.S. role in building Iran's nuclear program.

A statement made by General Uzi Dayan, Israel's chief of the Planning Branch in the Israeli army, was the first spark to ignite this issue. It was Gen. Dayan who raised for the first time the possibility of a military strike by Israel against Iran's nuclear installations "if no other power is able to prevent the Islamic Republic from acquiring nuclear weapons." In a lecture he delivered in Tel Aviv University's Moshe Dayan Center for Strategic Studies and the Middle East, Gen. Dayan went so far as to say that the significant progress that was achieved by Iran in manufacturing nuclear weapons could induce

Israel, as of now and a year from now, into making decisions to confront Iran's nuclear threat.

According to the information of this Israeli military official, "The state of universal chaos is such that countries like Iran can acquire the technology and the basic materials for manufacturing nuclear weapons more quickly and more efficiently." This information was confirmed and embraced by another group of Israeli and American military experts, including Yitzhaq Rabin, Israel's prime minister and defense minister; Gen. Danny Rothschild; and William Perry, the U. S. secretary of defense.

Accordingly, Gen. Dayan suggested that Israel remain cautious and watch this situation. At the same time it should prepare the measures that would be appropriate to confront the Iranian threat.

It is known that Israel launched an air raid on the French-built, Tamuz [July] nuclear reactor in Iraq in June 1981, almost one year after the onset of the Iran-Iraq War. That may be why Israel's recent threat caused concern in Iranian circles. It may be why many observers considered that threat a serious one.

It is a fact that Iran's ambitions for acquiring nuclear weapons have been well-known. Iranians themselves allude to them. Israeli observers remember statements such as the well-known one that was made by Ayatollah [as published] Mohajerani, one of President Hashemi Rafsanjani's advisors. Mohajerani affirmed that "as long as the Zionist regime is a nuclear power, every Islamic country, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran, must be capable of developing a nuclear weapon."

Israel and the Western countries have been following with great interest for years the development of Iran's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons and the growth in the size of its military arsenal. Israel did and continues to play a role in the intense pressure that is being applied to the West, particularly Washington and Bonn, to persuade these countries to reduce their commercial cooperation with Tehran. Germany became the focus of that pressure to make it intensify its oversight of operations to export dual-use (civil and military) technology to Iran.

The recent crisis is a product of the fact that Israeli and U.S. experts and officials suddenly resorted to reconsidering their previous estimates and information about Iran's nuclear capabilities. They have been affirming that Iran is now "very close" to producing its first nuclear bomb. They say that Iran will be able to produce that first bomb in "less than five years" when their previous estimates indicated that Iran would do so in about 10 years.

An American expert who is familiar with Iran's nuclear program says, "If Iran continues its present course, it will not be too long before it will acquire what it needs to manufacture the first nuclear bomb. Iran will be able to manufacture that bomb in a few years, not more than five years in any case."

Western intelligence sources affirm that Tehran has been doing more than rebuild its military capabilities since the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1989. Iran has been rebuilding its military capabilities by acquiring advanced weapons, mostly from the former Soviet Union. The acquisition of those weapons was part of a \$10 billion military agreement that was signed by Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mikhail Gorbachev. The agreement involves almost all the weapons that the Soviet Union then owned and Russia now has in its factories: MiG 29s, T-72 heavy tanks, Kilo attack submarines, heavy artillery, helicopters, SAM and SCUD missiles, and advanced radar systems.

Tehran, Beijing, Pyongyang

What is most worrisome for the international community and the countries in the region, however, is the cooperation in the areas of nuclear weapons and long-range ballistic missiles between Tehran, on the one hand, and Beijing and Pyongyang, on the other.

As a matter of fact, this cooperation was such that China, after denying it for months, was compelled to admit that it had sold to the mullah's regime two advanced systems, thereby allowing Iran to produce enriched uranium. The Chinese were careful to affirm, however, that the sale was part of "a peaceful and scientific" use of this technology.

China also sold three kinds of silkworm missiles to Iran: surface to sea, air to sea, and air to surface. [as published] Two years ago a military plant in Kerman Province in southeast Iran started assembling Cruise missiles and M-11 missiles with a range of 300 km. The plant also started assembling F-7 training airplanes, which are clones of the Soviet MiG-19 airplanes, as well as CSS-2 missiles with a range of up to 1,000 km. It is those missiles that are worrying the Israelis because they can reach them.

Earlier, an Israeli journalist who had visited Tehran indicated that during his visit to Tehran—but he provided no details about that visit—he had met with a team of Chinese nuclear scientists who were on a business trip visiting nuclear installations in Isfahan in central Iran. Reza Amrollah, the director of Iran's Nuclear Energy Organization, affirmed that Tehran will receive from Beijing two Kishan nuclear reactors, each with a capacity of 300 megawatts.

It seems that nuclear cooperation between Iran and North Korea is more advanced than it is with China. The two capitals have joint projects for developing long-range Nodong and Rodong missiles. It seems that North Korea's communist and atheist regime did provide the anti-communist Islamic Republic with graphite nuclear reactors that utilize a relatively old technology that is not advanced. And yet, that technology, which is easily manufactured and installed, utilizes only natural, not enriched uranium, which Iran has difficulty utilizing. In

addition, Iran did purchase from North Korea SCUD-B and SCUD-C ballistic missiles that have a range of 300 and 500 km.

Communications between Tehran and Pyongyang have recently undergone a noticeable change. There has been an increase in the number of meetings and processes that usually take place under the cover of exchanging parliamentary delegations, which usually include high-level military figures.

A secret and very detailed report by German intelligence had revealed that Iran had managed to manufacture SCUD-B missiles with a range of 300 km. The report also revealed that Iran had succeeded in setting up a technology that utilizes solid fuel to manufacture missiles.

That report, which was circulated a few months ago on a very limited basis, indicated that the project for producing quantities of Cruise missiles, which Iran had acquired from Beijing, had gone into "a very advanced" stage.

The report confirmed the doubts and fears expressed by experts and other intelligence agencies. It confirmed that Iran "had acquired Nodong-1 missiles with a range of over 1,000 km and that it was getting ready to produce these missiles locally with the assistance of Korean experts."

Secret Factories

While security agencies were closely watching the development of Iran's nuclear program, the mullahs found themselves compelled to deny the existence of any military, nuclear projects. However, Iran's insistence on equipping the Bushehr power plant on the Gulf with nuclear reactors increased worries, fears, and suspicions in the major capitals.

It is known that Iran is a member of the International Energy Organization and that it had signed the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Iran's nuclear installations have been subject to periodic inspection by experts of the international organization. By comparison, Israel, which owns between 100 and 200 nuclear bombs and warheads, according to the sources, still refuses to sign the international agreement. Israel insists on preventing the Energy Organization's experts from visiting its numerous nuclear installations, which have become known to everyone.

But the peaceful statements that are being repeated by the mullahs are neither reassuring nor persuading anyone in the world. Recently, with Iranian experts opposed to the regime affirming that military nuclear installations are scattered everywhere in Iran in secret locations that are subject to strict military control, international suspicions have been reinforced. When AL-WATAN AL-ARABI asked an official in the International Energy Organization in Vienna if international experts were able to confirm that they were visiting all

nuclear installations in Iran, that source replied that the experts can visit only "those sites that the Iranians want us to visit."

Informed Iranian sources revealed to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that the larger part of Iran's military nuclear centers and factories, where missiles and other advanced offensive weapons are manufactured, are scattered in secret locations in areas of Kerman in the southeast, Fars in the south, Semnan in the northeast, Khorramabad in the center of the country, and also in Tehran.

The Bushehr Reactor

The well-known Bushehr reactor had been equipped for the basic purpose of a large program involving about 20 plants that would use nuclear energy to generate electricity. Before the Islamic Revolution, 75 percent of the Bushehr Center, each of whose reactors has a capacity of 1,300 megawatts, had been completed by experts from Siemens, the German firm. By comparison, the French firm, Framatome, had started construction of two other units on the Karun River near the Iraqi border. It was the Shah's hope that this huge Iranian program would guarantee for Iran the infrastructure that was essential for turning the country into a nuclear power equal to Israel.

But Ayatollah Khomeini soon declared this project "anti-Islamic," and the government of Mehdi Bazargan soon abandoned it. In 1981 the Iraqi air force destroyed what was left of its installations.

Then, while the Iran-Iraq war was in full swing, the mullahs changed their minds, and they tried to rebuild the Bushehr reactor according to plans that had been prepared by the Shah. They asked the Germans to resume work on the reactor, but the Kraft-Werke Union [KWU], which is a principal Siemens subsidiary, came under American pressure and was induced to propose a new design for the reactor whose technology replaces nuclear technology with natural gas operated turbines. This was done based on the fact that natural gas is a substance that Iran has an abundant supply of and natural gas reserves in Iran are the second largest after those in Russia.

After years of negotiations and efforts during which Iran had been turned down by Japan, South Korea, France, Switzerland, and all the other countries with extensive experience in building nuclear plants to whom it had turned for assistance, Moscow agreed to build the Bushehr plant for Iran after getting the green light to do so from Washington.

Last 8 January an agreement was signed in Tehran between Iranian authorities and Victor Mikhaylov, Russia's minister of atomic energy. The agreement, which is worth more than \$1 billion, involves the construction of two reactors, each with a capacity of 1,300 megawatts.

Several Western countries expressed their dismay with this Russian-Iranian deal, particularly since it was concluded with Washington's consent. One Western diplomat commented on the deal by saying, "It is an

example of the Clinton administration's policy. Washington prevents its allies from gaining a foothold, but it allows its enemies to gain a foothold." It is known that Washington, which had applied pressure to Western countries, particularly to Germany to prevent it from rebuilding the Bushehr plant, allowed Moscow to build the plant hoping that the deal would help Boris Yeltsin by ensuring for him the financial revenues that would come with the deal.

Today, it is the same Clinton administration that is leading the campaign against Iran's nuclear threat. It is the same Clinton administration that is applying pressure to Pakistan to compel it "to stop" its nuclear program. In the meantime Washington is refusing to talk any time now or in the future about Israel's nuclear bombs.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Views U.S. Ties, Bhutto Visit

*BK0304092795 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
2 Apr 95 p 12*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, April 1 (APP)—Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said international neighbourhood calls for increased cooperation based on equality and justice.

Sardar Asif was quoted by Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) as saying that Pakistan and the United States have been friends for a long time and this friendship could not go a long way if both the countries would not have watched each other's interests.

Foreign Minister said Pakistan never in the past compromised its interests for the sake of friendship with America and in future as well it will never sell out its interests to the US. Similarly one should not expect that US will ignore its interests and shift its policy for Pakistan.

"There is no major dispute between Pakistan and the United States", he added.

He said US has made its nuclear policy on international level to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons and in this regard it keeps on pressurising Pakistan as well.

Sardar Asif said Pressler Amendment bars American military aid to any country which is suspected of having manufactured nuclear weapons or preparing to develop them and unfortunately Pakistan has become a victim of this law and its aid was cut off.

He said Pakistan cannot change Pressler Law. Only representatives of American people can do that. But there is a visible change in American viewpoint about the delivery of F-16 aircraft. This change has come mainly because of Pakistan's principled stand on the issue and Secretary of Defence William Perry himself admitted that Pressler Law has proved counter-productive, he added.

He said a group has emerged in the US Congress which thinks that Pakistan is facing discrimination because of Pressler Law. This trend, he hoped, will strengthen pro-Pakistan sentiments in the Congress.

Sardar Asif said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will meet President Clinton during her visit to the United States and clarify Pakistan's point of view on major issues. She will also call on the Congressmen and office holders of various Congress committees and brief them on the impact of US policies on Pakistan.

The Foreign Minister said despite differences on certain issues Pakistan enjoys very good economic relations with the United States and the US has appreciated economic reforms made by the present government.

He said American investors and business people will meet Prime Minister Bhutto and hear from her about the economic reforms and by this way all the doubt will be cleared.

Sardar Asif said a large number of American investors have already signed various memoranda of understanding for investment in Pakistan and it will not be difficult for Prime Minister Bhutto to convince them for meaningful agreements.

Foreign Secretary on Bhutto Agenda

BK0204140595 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto would focus on creating a better understanding on Pakistan's position on the Pressler Amendment, delivery of F-16's or refund of the money involved, and South Asian regional situation in the context of the Kashmir issue during her forthcoming visit to the United States. This was stated by the foreign secretary, Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh, at a briefing at the Foreign Office about the visit of the prime minister beginning on Wednesday [5 April].

During her visit, the prime minister will reinforce the views already held by some congressmen that the Pressler Amendment needs review and she will call for its repeal. She will apprise the American leaders that the Kashmir dispute undermines prospects of peace and security in the region.

The prime minister will explain Pakistan's concern about the repression by Indian occupation forces and emphasize the importance of resolving the dispute in accordance with UN resolutions and wishes of Kashmiri people. The foreign secretary said the prime minister will put across the view that the United States is well-placed to be mediator between India and Pakistan to find a just and lasting solution of the issue. He referred to a number of exchanges between the two countries since the present government took over and said there is a much clear understanding in the United States that progress on nuclear nonproliferation can only be made in the regional or global context.

Commentaries View Prime Minister's U.S. Visit

Editorial Urges Briefing

BK0204123895 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
1 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Prime Minister's Radio and Television Speech and Her Visit to the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When the announcement was made about the prime minister's speech over radio and television the other day, people thought that she wanted to take the people into her confidence regarding her visit to the United States. Parliament members complained that the government did not consider it necessary to take them into its confidence, despite the importance of the visit.

The prime minister did not mention her visit to the United States in her lengthy speech, which disappointed people. One might well say that the entire speech was, in fact, in connection with that visit, and the prime minister wanted to make it clear to her hosts that she too is not willing to make any kind of compromise with those whom the United States calls terrorists, militants, and fundamentalists. It is also said that by referring to the drug and Kalashnikov mafia, the prime minister was only trying to please the United States. No direct mention was made in her speech about her trip, despite the visit being significant in many ways. The government itself is acknowledging its importance. A substantial amount of taxpayers' money will be spent on the visit. Several delegations have already arrived in the United States to make arrangements and the services of well-known lobbyists have been obtained. Therefore, the people have the right to know the details about where their money will be spent.

Relations between Pakistan and the United States are very frigid. It would be wrong to infer any warming of this relationship in view of Robin Raphel's recurring visits, Talbott's trip, the visit of the U.S. energy secretary, and now the arrival of the U.S. first lady. The true situation needs to be observed. The United States claims that it got Pakistan's nuclear program capped and now wants to inspect it. In the next phase, the United States wants to see Pakistan freeze its nuclear program and eventually roll it back.

The United States imposed the Pressler Amendment on Pakistan, resulting in strict restrictions against this country on trade with the United States. Because of this amendment, the United States refused to supply the F-16 planes to Pakistan despite receiving payment for them. Pakistan faces a threat of aggression from India. India is engaged in a massive arms buildup. It has already exploded a nuclear device and is now manufacturing long-range missiles. Despite this, the United States is pursuing a policy ignoring Pakistan's defense needs.

The issue of Kashmir is as a matter of life and death to Pakistan. Initially, the United States supported the UN

resolutions on Kashmir. Now, however, it is striving for a third option to resolve the dispute. What people fear is that the United States will use an independent and sovereign state of Kashmir as a hub for its maneuvers against China and other countries in the region. Palestine-type talks are also being initiated on the Kashmir issue and the Kathmandu conference of Kashmiri leaders might one day turn out to be a prelude to a Camp David-type solution.

Pakistan is faced with terrorism in Karachi. People say that the United States is trying to make Karachi a new Hong Kong, and find the sale of Gwadar worrying. Many questions have cropped up in the minds of people, due to the establishment of a seismic center in Chakwal. The American concern over the devotion to religion [mazhab parasti] in our country is not a casual one. Our government seems to be complying with the United States and is soliciting help for dealing with religious fanaticism and terrorism.

The Afghan territory along the border is being soaked with blood. The United States was interested in Afghanistan as long as it was under Soviet occupation. Now, however, that the Soviet troops have been withdrawn and the danger of communism is over, the United States has no interest, although logically and morally there was a need to establish peace in Afghanistan. People are compelled to think that since peace in Afghanistan will benefit Pakistan as well as Central Asia, this is why the United States is not willing to cooperate in containing the chaos in Afghanistan.

The people have numerous such questions in the context of Pakistan-U.S. relations, which should have been answered by the prime minister in her speech. She, however, did not feel any need to address them. It will be better if she takes the nation into her confidence about the visit before she departs for the United States. If she does so, then it will make the visit beneficial for the country and enable the prime minister to hold talks with her hosts with confidence.

Expectations for Bhutto's Visit

BK3103152895 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu
31 Mar 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Expectations for the Prime Minister's Visit to the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an informal discussion with reporters at the Foreign Office, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali expressed his views on the possible outcome of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's planned visit to the United States. He emphatically stated that it is inappropriate to be optimistic about the outcome of the visit on the basis of mere speculation. The basic realities should be understood. It is wrong to think that the outstanding issues between Pakistan and the United States can be resolved in the few days of the prime minister's visit. These issues include the abrogation of

the Pressler Amendment or the cessation of its application to Pakistan and the supply of the F-16 aircraft. It is not easy to get rid of the Pressler Amendment; it requires time. Only after this amendment is waived can the issue of the delivery of the F-16's be settled and U.S. economic and military aid to Pakistan be restored. The prime minister will definitely discuss these issues with the U.S. authorities. She will make efforts to achieve progress in this direction and obtain better results. Nevertheless, Pakistan position is firm and unchangeable. Pakistan's principled stance is clear to the entire world, including the United States.

Surprising or miraculous results should not be expected from the prime minister's visit. We can, however, hope that this visit will improve the understanding between Pakistan and the United States. Under the Pressler Amendment, the United States had withheld economic and military assistance to Pakistan. Over the past five years, every Pakistani Government has tried to annul the Pressler Amendment, as well as to have U.S. assistance to Pakistan resumed. The resumption of U.S. aid has great significance in Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's foreign policy objectives. The Clinton administration's attitude is soft, especially toward the present Pakistani Government. Therefore, there is scope for optimism, but immediate results cannot be expected.

PULSE Criticizes Trip

BK0304091795 Islamabad THE PULSE in English
31 Mar-6 Apr 95 p 14

[Editorial: "BB's American Jaunt Incapacitates the State"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] These days, Ms Bhutto's government seems to have postponed all meaningful policy decisions until the prime minister's return from the USA. This is despite the fact that the situation in Karachi shows no signs of improving—with terror striking at the school-going populace also—no matter what interior minister Babar may have to say on the issue. From making contradictory statements on the root cause of the Karachi violence, the ruling elite has now decided to make no comments at all—lest Ms Bhutto's American trip suffer any adverse consequence.

Of course, the fact that many more innocent Pakistanis will lose their lives and a throbbing city will slip further into decay seems not to bother the government. Their priority has been made very clear. No action must be contemplated that may threaten to upset the status quo during Ms Bhutto's visit to the United States. So, no political solutions can be thought of, let alone implemented; and all the violent ethnic and sectarian forces are implicitly being allowed to carry on their divisive and murderous agendas—at least till such time that Ms Bhutto can find the political will to deal with them.

And, she is only too aware of their nuisance value to upset them, and face their wrath just when she is

courting the Americans. This is probably why no more has been heard of after the interior minister's threat to get hold of all the obscurantists forces that are wielding terror at will.

All in all, there should be no reason for surprise or shock by this latest and deliberate incapacitation of the state. After all, it is an unfortunate reality that this country's leaders have always put external factors before national interests, even as they have blatantly sought sacrifices from the nation in times of personal trial.

Ms Bhutto, to her credit, has never made any bones about her priorities—they have always rested with pleasing the Americans first, and perhaps, where possible and convenient, the nation has been considered as an afterthought. That is why, even though domestic priorities demand immediate and determined action to tackle the Karachi situation, Ms Bhutto's sole concern is her American trip.

So, the bleeding citizens of Karachi will have to continue suffering the random terror unleashed by ethnic and sectarian forces—given further sustenance by hostile external forces—until BB [Benazir Bhutto] has sated herself on America. Perhaps, before she takes off again, she may turn her attention to the disintegrating domestic polity. But, then soon after her return, she will have to entertain the Portuguese president.

Perhaps the nation better accept the reality that this government has no time for its own. It would then be appropriate to formulate a suitable response to this most immoral neglect that the nation has had to suffer as a result of the deliberate incapacitation of the state wrought by Ms Bhutto and her cohorts. After all, at some stage of continuous neglect and abuse, the nation must learn to say: Enough.

U.S. Said To Support 'Camp David' Solution for Kashmir

BK0404081795 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 4 Apr 95
p 4

["Pressure on Pakistan for Cooperation With India?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Addressing a function in Karachi, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, the chairman of the parliamentary committee on Kashmir, said the United States wants to impose a Camp David-type arbitrary solution to the Kashmir problem, which will not be accepted by the Kashmiri and the Pakistani people under any circumstances. He regretted that an Azad Kashmir leader credited with the launching of the holy war for Kashmir and an occupied Kashmir leader, Shabbir Shah, are wittingly or unwittingly becoming a part of this conspiracy. The Azad Kashmir leader, during his visit to the United States, announced that the elections in occupied Kashmir would be acceptable to the Kashmiri people if they were held under the supervision of the United Nations. Meanwhile, Shabbir Shah has also given a similar statement in India.

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan alleged that India's announcement about the holding of elections in occupied Kashmir and the release of Kashmiri detainees are a part of an international conspiracy. When the Kashmiris opposed planned elections, the United States asked Pakistan to assist India in holding elections in occupied Kashmir.

Pakistan's unwavering stand has been that elections are not a substitute for the UN resolutions. If the United States can play the role of a mediator in accordance with this stand and persuade India to implement the relevant UN resolutions, then nobody will have any objection, because it was with this idea in mind that Pakistan had urged the United States to help reach a settlement with India on Kashmir.

Editorial Questions Extradition of Drug Suspects

BK0404050995 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
4 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Extradition of Pakistani nationals to the US"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Immediately after the Lahore High Court rejected the writ petition of seven persons accused of drug smuggling two of them were handed over to the US drug enforcing Agency which lost no time to fly them over to the US in their own special plane. Pakistan has an extradition treaty with the US and since Pakistan is very keen to put an end to drug smuggling in the country it is cooperating with drug enforcing agencies of other countries. We have no comment to make on the decision of the Rawalpindi Bench of the Lahore High Court which applied its mind to the case and delivered a detailed judgement on the merits of the petition of the wanted men. What worries us is that the Pakistan authorities did not give the accused an opportunity to exercise their right of appeal to the Supreme Court of Pakistan by handing over the wanted men to the US authorities present in Rawalpindi.

The other petitioners feared that the Pakistan authorities might extradite them also for offences under the laws governing drug smuggling. They will, however, stand trial in Pakistan. Before handing the two Pakistan accused to America our own government should have prosecuted the accused for offences committed on the soil of Pakistan, and if found guilty should have been handed over to the US after they had served their sentences in Pakistan. Government is very keen to deal effectively with drug smuggling which is doing immense harm to society and may even be responsible for much of the lawlessness in our large cities. Smuggling is ruining our economy and destabilising urban society in Karachi. The efforts of the government to put an end to this evil in our society is commendable, and should receive the active support of the common people who are increasingly becoming the victims of the many ills that smuggling breeds.

We also commend the judiciary which has done justice to those accused of smuggling when it is well known that smugglers have immense powers of retaliation. The decision of the Lahore High Court gives us the hope that the judiciary will continue to dispense justice in such cases without fear or favour.

What is worrying the people is that the government is over keen to please the Americans as in the case of Ramzi, accused of terrorism in the US. People then felt that Ramzi, was bundled out of the country after his arrest in Pakistan by his American accusers working in close cooperation with the Pakistan law enforcing agencies. Ramzi was not given any opportunity to exercise his right to seek legal remedies in a Pakistani court of law. This haste in handing over accused persons to US authorities is obviously motivated by the government's desire to curry favour with Americans, and create a climate of public opinion in America favourable to Pakistan.

Let the government by all means continue cooperation with the US and other countries to stamp out drug smuggling and related international crimes, let the government use all means to put down terrorism of all kinds, but government must never lose sight of its responsibility to safeguard the rights of its own citizens who are wanted by other countries. As a sovereign state we have an obligation to our own citizens and in the case of any kind of wrong doing we should insist on our right to try our own criminals in our own courts. Our law takes precedence over the laws of other nations. If the law requires the extradition of any of our citizens, it should

come after we have tried and punished the guilty in our country according to our own laws. They can be handed over to other governments only after their release from prisons after they have completed their sentences here.

Extradition of Smugglers Defended

BK0404081095 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 4 Apr 95
p 4

[Editorial: "Iqbal Beg, Anwar Khattak Handed Over to the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Haji Iqbal Beg and Anwar Khattak, who were involved in smuggling and other cases, have been flown to the United States in a special plane. Lahore High Court's Rawalpindi bench under Justice Raja Abdul Aziz Bhatti dismissed the writ petitions filed by seven suspects involved in serious crimes seeking protection against their extradition to other countries. The learned judge stated in his judgment that Article 15 of the Constitution does not in any way provide for protection against the extradition of a Pakistani citizen involved in serious crimes to other countries. It is strongly believed that the remaining accused will be turned over to the United States soon.

Earlier, Ramzi Yusuf was extradited to the United States. An extradition treaty exists between Pakistan and the United States, under which the two countries are committed to handing over suspects in serious crimes to each other's country. Therefore, there is no room for launching a fusillade of criticism against the extradition of the perpetrators of heinous crimes against humanity.

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